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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2014

PAGES 20-24 A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Shock news on Council mergers Page 10

LLANTWIT MAJOR AT CHRISTMAS PAGES 29-32

105 residents attend Darren Farm meetings

PEOPLE in and around Cowbridge had a chance last week to question the developers who have proposed to build 390 homes at Darren Farm, ***writes PHILIP IRWIN.***

The developers, CEG held two public consultation events, one in Cowbridge Town Hall and one in Llandow Village Hall.

The company said that flyers about the exhibitions and the dedicated website were distributed to homes across Cowbridge and an advertisement was placed in The GEM to ensure residents had the opportunity to attend.

A CEG spokeswoman said: "More than 2,000 homes were sent the flyer and 86 residents attended the event on Wednesday evening (November 12) at Cowbridge Town Hall and a further 19 people attended the Llandow event on Thursday, November 13."

Letters to The GEM (*see page 2*) so far are roughly even, but more are likely in the coming weeks.

Jon Allen of CEG was keen to emphasise the positives, saying: "Many residents were pleased that the link road, which will provide access in both directions to the bypass, will significantly reduce the number of vehicles which are using Cowbridge High Street as a through route to and from the bypass. It will also remove 300 vehicles a day from Llysworney."

The site, which lies between the bypass and Llantwit Major Road, is allocated in the Vale Council's current deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) for 390 homes, a site for a new school, a new link road and green space. A new LDP is being prepared, but CEG argues that Darren Farm is good for Cowbridge because the town's future housing needs would be met on one strategic site.

Vale MP Alun Cairns visited the Cowbridge consultation and was guarded in his comments. He said: "Any housing development in Cowbridge must take into account the feeling of those that could be affected by new housing."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Cowbridge gets set to welcome Santa and his reindeer
(*See story on page 4*)

Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK

'GIFT OF LIFE' WILL BE PLACED IN TOWN HALL

MASONS from around the Vale have joined with the town council to install a defibrillator that will be housed in Cowbridge town hall.

The town hall is used by six Masonic Lodges or Chapters, all of which meet on a regular basis throughout the year.

The Masons will pay for the defibrillator, while Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is paying for a secure cabinet to house it.

The defibrillator will be kept just inside the west entrance of the town hall (opposite Pebbles) and will be available for use whenever the town hall is occupied.

The life-saving equipment has been supplied by the charity, Welsh Hearts/Calonnau Cymru, which subsidises the cost of a defibrillator if the location is a good one.

Sharon Owen, of Welsh Hearts, told The GEM: "Our charity is one year old and we have already managed to fund 130 defibrillators throughout Wales.

"They can make such a difference to the chance of survival when someone has a cardiac arrest. Chances of survival drop by 14 per cent for every minute's delay."

She said that the charity had been delighted to support the placement of one in Cowbridge Town Hall because it would serve a community of around 8,000 people. She added that the only other defibrillator in the town that she was aware of was in the Bear Hotel.

Bryan Thomas, the co-ordinator for the six Masonic Lodges/Chapters meeting in the town hall, said that Dr Bob Baron, who is a member of the Provincial Action Group and also a GP in the Rhondda, had referred to the defibrillator as a "Gift of Life", a truly life-saving facility.

He said that the town hall in Cowbridge differed from most Masonic centres in that it was used extensively by the public at large.

He added that the six Lodges/Chapters have each agreed a make a donation of £100 to Welsh Hearts, who are providing the defibrillator.

Sharon Owen added: "The work of Welsh Hearts is vital for the people of Wales and we rely on donations of time and money to help. You can get more information from our website, www.welshhearts.org"

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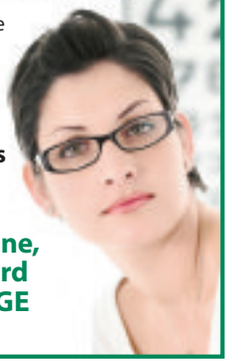

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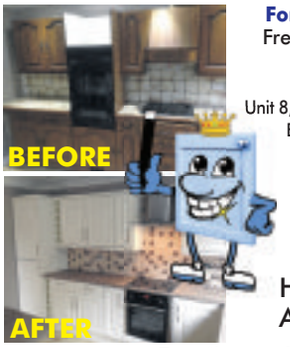

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Readers' Letters

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We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

THE GEM KEPT ME IN TOUCH – ONLINE!

I HAVE just returned from a lengthy visit to New Zealand and was pleasantly surprised to find that I could access your online edition each week.

It was excellent to be able keep up to date with the local news so easily. To navigate your online digital edition is easy and good for those of us that need to have a good size type to look at, just by tapping twice on the page on my iPad.

Please continue this free way of reading your excellent newspaper so that anyone who travels and lives in the area can keep up to date.
John A Mason, Barry.

Merger: 'Cardiff the best option'

SEVERAL letters have been written over recent months referring to the possible local council merger of the Vale with Cardiff. Accompanying these have been panic-driven reports, offered mainly by Vale councillors, reminding us of the bad old days of Glamorgan County and what a retrograde step this would be.

I guess us 'ordinary folk' can't help but feel somewhat suspicious of the perceived ulterior motives of councillors, particularly if their numbers are to be culled to rationalise top-heavy costly management structures currently in place between the two authorities.

I find myself drawing comparisons between the Vale and its close neighbour Cardiff, as I'm certain many others are doing, and am left wondering why Cardiff is seemingly going from strength-to-strength while Barry and the rest of the Vale appear to be slipping further into decline.

While I have no doubt that the local political parties are fully acquainted with the implications of a merger, I doubt whether locals are aware of all the facts and, if asked, could make an informed decision on such a major topic.

Unless there is a clearly outlined rationale for opposing a merger, which I have yet to see, I suspect that many will continue to support the view that aligning the Vale with Cardiff may be cost-saving and bring about some much-needed improvement and development to the area.
Rob Taylor

'REPLACE WORST ROAD IN WALES'

I DROVE on the roads of Wales and England for 32 years – 100,000 miles a year and over 3.2 million miles.

I came home on a very wet night along Five Mile Lane. The road was flooded. I clipped the bank, got drawn into the hedge and went on my roof. I thought I was a good driver– not good for that road, so it seems.

There has not been an improvement to that road since they took the humpback bridge out; Porth has had a bypass; Cwm has had one; Heads of the Valleys have £1.5 billion allocated (they need more).

I say, stop begging and start shouting for a new road – the last one was the link road. There are three areas on that road when flooded where you can be dragged into the hedge. It needs improving now, not in 20 more years' time!

I have spent 50 years driving that road, and it is still the worst in Wales.
Robert Darer, Barry.

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'DARREN FARM HAS POTENTIAL... BUT QUESTIONS REMAIN'

THANK YOU to the developers for the recent public exhibition of proposals at Darren Farm and for putting the planning into the public domain.

I was very grateful to have the opportunity to understand details of the proposed residential development. It's pleasing to see a property developer working with the community to effectively aid the community and local authority in the use of their powers.

As for the development, I think it can be very good as much thought has been given to a low density layout, the availability of open space; in particular, the landscaping and views.

The B4270 Llantwit Major road currently carries a very high proportion of Cowbridge through traffic; the proposed link road will remove much of this. The design and location of the link road and the configuration of a chicane at its junction with the Llantwit Major road will further reduce traffic past Tyla Rhosyr and Bowman's Well.

However, my concerns are that there was uncertainty as to when the link road will be built; for the development to progress this should be a condition of local authority contract to ensure it is included with the first phase of development.

I was extremely concerned about the safety of children walking to and from the proposed school, as no footpath is provided from Church Road at its junction at the Cross Inn to the link road junction with Llantwit Major Road; this cannot be ignored and needs urgent remedy.

I could not obtain clarification as to how the affordable houses will be allocated and, therefore, see this as an issue for strict control by local authority and housing association.

I commend the opportunity for elderly Cowbridge residents to be able to downsize and hope some bungalows will be provided in particular to aid the disabled.

Finally, I hope these concerns are acted upon for the community to obtain the benefits of the development.
Richard Thomas, Cowbridge.

'Not inspired' by exhibition

I HAVE always been opposed to the Darren Farm development, which has now undergone a very smart name change.

Cowbridge is proud of its roots, built on a Roman road running east to west. Changes come and we adapt, but town centre traffic has been an issue for decades, and popular opinion is that we cannot take a further large expansion of housing in the town; homes these days have two cars and often three once children come of age.

Visitors are welcome, but they complain about the lack of parking, and those of us living quite central are pleased to enjoy a walk down town and a chat as we pass neighbours and friends.

We believe only the fittest will be able to walk or cycle up and down the Llantwit Major road and 390 new properties are a very serious threat to our community.

The town hall exhibition included wonderful photographs of current properties in Cowbridge, and posters of plans for the intended development, doubtless to serve the purpose of attracting future home-owners, but did the illustrations inspire current residents? I don't think so.

The feedback form asked questions with answers which all supported the development to some degree or other.

I felt obliged to ignore all these questions and simply make comments on the back page, following my discussions with a representative, who told me all the positives and a startling negative: "The council have only asked us to build 90 houses on phase 1...

"If this scheme does not go ahead then, sadly, Cowbridge will become a town with an ageing population."

I went home and watched *The Apprentice*. Perhaps I had just witnessed a task in hand. I shall once again make my views known to the council.
Julie Harris, Cowbridge.

'Darren Farm plan has many benefits'

I REFER to GEM letters last week from an orchestrated group of constant objectors who have now moved their emphasis from the Primrose Hill proposed development to the Darren Farm proposals.

These people display no concern for the community of Cowbridge – in particular, the problems of housing for the young and old.

Some seem to have one prime concern –'property values'. What is even more farcical and quite humorous is that Cowbridge is known locally as the smelliest town in Wales, yet objectors do not raise this as, guess what, to publicise the fact will affect property values.

I felt the Primrose Hill development did not assist Cowbridge, but I find the Darren Farm development brings many benefits. It brings a new road from the A48 that will take a high percentage of through-traffic away from the town's high street.

It brings trade to the town, a much-needed new school; it will take road problems away from Llysworney and permit easier access to the Llandow industrial units, Llantwit Major, the Heritage coast and Cardiff Airport.

But primarily it will provide much needed affordable housing that will not be sold for investment to the greedy.

We all like the status quo of no development, but we have to be realistic, the average Cowbridge inhabitant is aged and becoming moribund.

The proposed development at Darren Farm brings together many opportunities.
Mrs Hilary Pitcairn, Cowbridge.

Road upgrade and fracking

I WAS intrigued to read in last week's GEM regional AM Andrew RT Davies' comments seeking clarity over controversial proposals to upgrade Five Mile Lane, for which there is a lack of information available to the public.

Call me a conspiracy theorist, but this stretch of road will be used by drilling companies if plans to frack for shale gas take place at the site at Dyffryn, which has been given planning permission for test drilling by the Vale Council.
Debbie Leigh,
The Vale Says No campaign.

Lengthy roadworks!

DOES anyone know how much longer the roadworks are going to take by the Four Cross petrol station on the main B4265? How can it take over a year to lay a short stretch of tarmac?
(Name and address supplied)

Local choir thanks GEM

MANY thanks for the superb layout of our recent feature in The GEM.

It created considerable interest and helped in attracting 20 potential members to our taster session.

Please extend my thanks to the staff for their support and guidance.
Gareth Jones,
Barry Male Voice Choir.

Why the shortage of hearing aid batteries?

IF, like me, you have found it necessary to wear a hearing aid, then you have also, like me, had to regularly replace those essential little batteries, because they are not re-chargeable.

Now if we need a battery for any other possession such as torches, watches, radios, etc., you can get them just about anywhere within walking distance, but not hearing aids!

One has to visit the hospital personally, or send a stamped addressed envelope to access further supplies. Why?

I have enquired in chemists, doctors surgeries, health centres and, finally, to MP Alun Cairns about this.

He helped by enquiring from Mark Drakeford, the Welsh Minister for Health, the reason for this. The reply came that: "*The decision to close the centres and centralise the supply of batteries was made due to the difficulties in ensuring that all centres were adequately stocked with batteries to meet the increased demand*".

It further states that if you cannot personally visit your hospital, you can make: "*A request by telephone for a postal service*.

"The patient will not be expected to pay for postage – this cost will be met by the audiology department".

Apparently, this last statement is based on what happens at Heath Hospital in Cardiff, but is not so at The Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.
Cynthia Merrett, Llantwit Major.

Christmas spirit!

ON Monday, November 10, I left my purse in a shopping trolley at Morrisons in Barry.

The gentleman who found it came to my home to return it, but I was out at the time. He then took it back to Morrisons to hand it in.

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to Mr Michael Richards for his integrity and honesty.

It just goes to show there is a spirit of Christmas, after all!
Mrs Blackie, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL NOVEMBER 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	04.37	9.1	16.54	9.3
21 Fri	05.20	9.5	17.33	9.6
22 Sat	05.58	9.7	18.15	9.8
23 Sun	06.37	9.9	18.56	9.9
24 Mon	07.17	10.0	19.35	10.0
25 Tues	07.58	10.1	20.17	9.9
26 Wed	08.39	9.8	21.04	9.6
27 Thur	09.26	9.5	21.52	9.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Lively banter at the Book Festival finale!

Authors Katie Fforde and Jo Thomas meet their public at the Cowbridge Book Festival.

SOMETHING quite different was promised, and that's what followers of the Cowbridge Book Festival got, when local celebrity, Lucy Owen, engaged best-selling author Katie Fforde and debut novelist Jo Thomas, in a very informative and frequently, amusing conversation.

Since Katie Fforde became Jo's valued mentor, through the Katie Fforde Bursary, these two highly articulate ladies have become firm friends and have an established rapport that Lucy was soon able to 'tune' into and the conversation and banter flowed.

During the lively Q & A session, an appreciative audience, that clearly included a few budding authors, received invaluable advice on how to structure a working day, who to look to for inspiration and the importance of doing thorough research.

They also emphasised the difficulties faced by would-be authors in finding publishers willing to read work submitted by unknown writers. Obviously this is not a world for the faint - hearted and, it would appear, that a tenacious personality is definitely an advantage.

On behalf of the festival, Jaci Harries thanked the three charming guests for such an entertaining evening and the audience then had the opportunity to purchase signed copies of their books and also chat with the authors over a glass of wine.

This was the last Cowbridge Book Festival event for 2014. Details of money raised throughout the year that will be donated to the festival's two designated charities, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research and The Noah's Ark Appeal, Children's Hospital of Wales, will be announced shortly.

SRC

Big Screen cooks up amusing film!

BIG SCREEN'S next film for this season is Chef (Cert 15) on Thursday, November 27 at 7.30pm in the town hall.

Following a fractious argument with a well known food critic, the chef loses his restaurant job. With the support of his family, he starts up a mobile food truck business in an effort to reclaim his self esteem.

This heart-warming and amusing film is written by, directed by and stars Jon Favreau, with strong support from Robert Downey Jr and Scarlett Johansson.

Doors open 7pm; tickets £4 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).

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Art students receive honours from arts group

ABOVE and BELOW: Cowbridge Comprehensive students receive honours from Cowbridge Arts Group.

AFTER another successful exhibition at the Old Hall titled 'The Figure', which showcased work by year-8 (3D models) and year-11 and 13 (Fine Art), Cowbridge Comprehensive School art students were judged by the Cowbridge Arts Group at their annual prize giving.

This year's finalists were: First, Claudia Fevre; second, Maddy Breed; third, Taraya Paget. These year-11 students were thrilled to receive their cash prizes. Emme Srivinas received a Highly Commended.

Mrs Clare Parry, head of art at Cowbridge School, is delighted with the links forged between the school, Cowbridge Arts Group, Old Hall adult education and the local community, as it gives students an opportunity to exhibit their work outside school.

Well done all! **CL**

WHAT'S ON / In brief

Ladies' choir

CANTORION (Pontyclun) Ladies' Choir is holding a community carol concert at St David's Church, Miskin, at 7pm on December 18. All are welcome. For information, contact Ann Dunstan on 02920 892570.

Festive coffee

COWBRIDGE Stitch'nBitch are holding a festive coffee morning and craft fair in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday, November 29, between 10.30am and 1.30pm. All proceeds will be donated to the British Heart Foundation.

Tom and Owen Morgan reently visited Cowbridge Comprehensive School to talk about street food.

Entrepreneurs tutor local pupils in street food culture

TWO local businessmen inspired the next generation of food entrepreneurs – by sharing their knowledge of setting up a street food kitchen.

Brothers Tom and Owen Morgan, founders of award-winning Bar 44 in Cowbridge and Penarth, visited Cowbridge Comprehensive School, where they held a question and answer session with pupils on how to successfully tap into the growing street food culture in the UK.

Earlier this year, Nathalie Singh, a teacher at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, set up 'The Tasty Business' – a food club for pupils who had a passion for cooking.

Pupils from years 8 and 9 have since created a new Mexican menu, which will be available from the school canteen.

For the street food celebration event, pupils from the 'food club' created dishes from the new menu and served them from Bar 44's very own street kitchen, El Boquerón, to the rest of the school.

Pupils were then able to ask Tom questions regarding setting up a food business, and how to be successful in the food industry.

In 2013, Tom, along with his brother, Owen Morgan, invested in a retro American airstream catering trailer, serving authentic Spanish tapas, beers, wine and sherry, which they have taken on the road to festivals and private events across Wales and the UK.

Tom Morgan said: "We were delighted to be asked by Nathalie to attend the school with El Boquerón to help the students develop knowledge of the street food industry.

"We have some excellent training and development schemes at Bar 44 so we're always on the lookout for future talent. The menu the students created is very impressive and we can already see that there are several talented students. Being part of the community is something that is very important to us so we really did enjoy sharing our knowledge and watching the students cook.

"We launched El Boquerón last year after seeing a rise in the UK's street food scene and it has been extremely successful to date at festivals and private events, including weddings. Hopefully, in the future, some of the students will launch their own street kitchen cuisine."

Nathalie Singh said: "We were thrilled when Tom agreed to visit the school with El Boquerón. The students have given up a significant amount of their time throughout the summer holidays and after school to develop the menu so it really was a pleasure to watch them see their creations come to life.

"And being able to serve it from an authentic street kitchen was the icing on top of the cake."

NEWS FROM THE COWBRIDGE U3A

IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN TO A VET!

ON November 12, we were entertained by Roy Gee, who assured us that for some reason we would not discuss either fox hunting or badger culling.

However, the talk developed and we learned that the RSPCA was founded 190 years ago by, among others, William Wilberforce and Rev Brooome at, of all places Slaughterman's Coffee Shop!

They were the first people to be uniformed before the police. The first thing they saved was a donkey in 1822!

The activities vary from being one of the initiators with the Co-op of 'Freedom Foods' which helps developing countries get a fair deal, to saving a whale off Aberthaw Power Station and a goldfish in a bowl.

It came as some suprise to learn the badger sets were repositories for the exchange of crack cocaine.

We live and learn!

The next meeting is on December 10, at 2pm; Christmas Old Spice Barbershop Quartet with mulled wine and mince pies – make sure you have joined! **TB**

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Cowbridge is all set for Reindeer Parade

by PHILIP IRWIN

NOVEMBER 30 is the date for Cowbridge's annual Christmas curtain-raiser, when Santa comes to town for the Reindeer Parade!

It is an event that was started by the town's chamber of trade and, over the years, it has retained its magic and never strayed far from a successful formula.

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM that it was very much a case of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it!'

There will, however, be one extra attraction this year, as the Vale Farmers' Market will be holding a Christmas market, with 21 stall-holders already confirmed.

It will be the first time the market has been specially organised to coincide with the Reindeer Parade, and it has been made possible by support from Creative Rural Communities..

Myfanwy Edwards, secretary of the Vale Farmers Market, added: "The Reindeer Parade is a great tradition and we are delighted to be involved to help make it an even more enjoyable event for visitors."

One of the stallholders is Tomos a Lilford Brewery, a local craft brewery that sprang from two Dads meeting at the Cowbridge school gate.

The brewery is known for its diverse range of ales, including Rosemary Ale and Thyme and Yarrow Ale, and has created a new beer especially for the Reindeer Parade called Winter Porter Ale.

Co-founder Rob Lilford said: "We make unique craft beers with a real local twist and the Winter Porter Ale we've brewed for this year's Reindeer Parade is no exception.

As usual, the main road through the town, from Westgate through to Eastgate, will be closed from 12 noon to 1pm to allow the reindeer parade to make its leisurely way from the west end of the town to the town hall.

It will be led this year by the Nativity Parade, organised by Churches Together in Cowbridge. Any children in Nativity costume who want to join the parade should meet by 11.40am in the garden of the United Free Church, Westgate.

Mr John said: "It is best to get to the town

soon after 11am to get a good spot for the parade. We hope that as many shops as possible will be open, as this has proved to be the ideal way to welcome Christmas."

The event is paid for by the chamber of trade, although the help of local voluntary organisations is crucial.

Mr John said: "The chamber of trade sees this event as a chance to give something back to the community, and to thank people for their support throughout the year.

"I would also like to thank the management and staff at Waitrose, especially Chris, for putting on a cheese and wine evening that raised about £200 to meet costs."

There will be extra parking at the western entrance to the town, at Llwynhelig Farm.

The reindeer parade itself, with Santa riding his sleigh, pulled by a team of reindeer and accompanied by his elves, will start at 12 noon.

After the parade, Santa will be in his grotto and will be delighted to welcome young visitors. Entertainment on a stage near the town hall will continue between 11.30am and 1.30pm..

The on-stage entertainment takes a break until around 4.30pm, but returns in time for the afternoon's big finish, when the town's Christmas lights are switched on.

The Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club has been involved with the reindeer parade for many years, not only by doing a collection for local good causes and running Santa's Grotto, but more recently providing a burger stall.

With the help of the Cowbridge Rotary Club, the Lions will be doing a bucket collection, and the burger stall will be in the car park behind the town hall. Proceeds from both will go to local good causes.

SANTA'S GROTTO

A Lions' spokesman said: "As usual Santa's Grotto will be hugely popular, so to avoid long queues, access will be by ticket only.

"Tickets can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first-come, first-served' basis from 11am on the day. Each ticket will grant access to one family but please remember the number of tickets are limited since Santa can only stay between 1.30pm and 4pm.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience a donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

'Thank you all for your Poppy Appeal support' – *says organiser*

THE Poppy Appeal collection is over for another year and I must write to ask you to thank on my behalf all those who helped and took part – my difficulty is where to begin.

What must be said is that the Poppy Appeal collection and the Remembrance Sunday gathering for the wreath-laying, parade to Holy Cross church and the centenary commemoration service were exceptionally well supported.

Thanks and credit must be given to the people of Cowbridge and Llanblethian for embracing the spirit of "We will remember them" in this centenary year.

Thanks also to Town Clerk, Andrew Davies, for his brilliant organisation at the Town Hall, and to those at Holy Cross for a memorable commemoration service, as well as all the organisations who took part.

We await the results of this year's collection, and the Lloyd's Bank staff is busy counting the donations for us. It was clear from what was seen and heard during the collection time that people have been especially generous this year.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them. I would also like to say a big 'thank you' to the businesses, organisations and schools that supported us once again by taking collection boxes.

Our collectors also deserve considerable credit for the time and effort they put in to helping the Poppy Appeal cause. The weather this year was mild by normal standards, but the wind and rain made their task a little onerous on times yet they stuck to it gallantly.

Their contribution is paramount and I personally thank each and every one of them.

Last, but not least, special mention must go to two stalwarts of the Poppy Appeal collection team, Brendagh Richards and Roy Williams, who have had their pitch outside the Town Hall for many years. Roy dispensing poppies and crosses for the Garden of Remembrance he organised at Holy Cross church, and Brendagh selling her marmalades, jams, chutneys and pickles to raise money for the appeal.

They say this was their last year there, and although they still fully support the appeal, they won't be outside the Town Hall next year.

There are those of us who remember the number of comebacks Frank Sinatra made; so maybe we will just wait and see!

DAVID HOWELL,
Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser, Cowbridge.

Darren Farm meeting

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Cairns continued: "The local community should be listened to on such an important issue, and I was pleased to hear that so many local people had attended and made comment."

After the event, CEG highlighted what they felt were then "key issues" discussed at the event. These included:

• Some of those who attended the exhibitions felt Cowbridge was exclusive and they did not want to see any new homes here.

• Other attendees were pleased with the proposals and welcomed new homes.

• It was felt that a new school would be beneficial.

• Most agreed that infrastructure, such as the school and link road should be delivered alongside housing

• There was a need for new homes for the young people of Cowbridge to access the housing ladder as well as homes for the elderly to downsize.

• Residents were interested in any investment which could be made to support proposals for new parking near the High Street.

• To what degree the new link road could divert traffic from the High Street, as well as Llysworney, was discussed.

Jon Allen, from CEG, concluded: "We like to work with the local community to develop masterplans which respect and enhance the character of the area.

"Cowbridge is a unique place, which makes this process all the more important. Some good ideas were raised at the events, including the provision of new bungalows. This is something we will now explore as we progress the proposals."

The proposals can still be viewed on the website www.northwestcowbridge.co.uk or residents can contact Victoria Walker on 07876 548498 for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Plea to parents

I AM appealing to the parents of the children who attend Llangan school to please use the school car park for the safety of your children.

On Thursday of last week, November 13, I came from Llangan village onto the Pentre Meurig road; as I approached the area where the school is situated all I could see was cars.

Approaching at speed were two juggernauts and the power of those two vehicles made me realise if a child (or even an adult) were to step out just a little way from their own car, they would have no chance whatever.

So please, for the sake of your children's safety, use the school's own car park.

Young At Heart!

IN celebration of her 80th birthday club member, Mrs Rita Rodgers, was presented with a floral bouquet, with all members enjoying a wonderful birthday cake.

Saron Chapel

THE service which took place in Saron on Sunday, November 16 was well attended, with regular visitors from Treoes, Llangan, Coychurch and St Mary Hill.

A great help was provided by Lorriane West, who arranged to have a microphone in place, which proved a great help for those with less than perfect hearing.

Thank the Romans for our Welsh leeks!

LLANBLETHIAN WI NEWS

THIS month we welcomed Sian Roberts, newsreader and presenter for Radio Wales, whose subject was the 'Welsh Food Industry'.

The WDA some 20 years ago decided to raise the profile of Welsh food; at that time very little was known about the industry. However, by placing together the geography, the agriculture and economics of Wales, it was possible to paint a picture of the diet and eating habits of the Welsh.

Did you know that the Romans introduced leeks to Wales, which was a surprise, since it is now a national emblem. In the same way, the New World introduced potatoes, tobacco and sugar.

Anglesey was known at that time as the bread basket of Wales, which is no longer true as we now grow large quantities of grain in the south.

Our major exports from Wales are rugby players, lamb, beef, cheese and seafood – but this is changing and we are now producing high quality cider and ales, many made in microbreweries. We also produce Welsh liqueurs and, of course, wine, which is made locally.

If you would like to join our happy group, why not come along on the second Thursday of every month to Llanblethian Church Hall at 7.30pm. **VG**

Scout group's charity work

I WOULD like to say thanks to all our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts for all the hard work they have done over the last six months, collecting used postage stamps to raise money for Leukaemia Research.

They competed to see who would save the most and between all of the sections, we collected over 10,000 used stamps. The outright winners were the Cubs with over 6,000 stamps.

Mr and Mrs O'Leary, representing Leukaemia Research, attended our November 11 Cub meeting for a special presentation evening.

They were delighted to receive so many stamps for this worthwhile cause and the cubs chose special badges as a thank you for their hard work.

Also present were James Hallihan representing the Scout section and Meghan Hallihan for the Beaver section. We have chosen Cystic Fibrosis as our next charity, so in the next six months we are going to collect used stamps.

This charity is very close to our hearts, because a member of the Beaver Colony suffers from this condition.

Meghan was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis in 2007, when she was just three months old.

Her care, medication, nutrition, physiotherapy and training her teachers how to help care for her are all supported by Cystic Fibrosis trust, along with research into new treatments.

The trust relies solely on charitable income, so any donation of used stamps will be very much appreciated.

Christmas Scout post stamps are now on sale (last posting date is December 8).

Unfortunately, used Scout stamps cannot be saved for our charity collections.

Christine Mallett, Cowbridge Scout Group.

Super Hero sprint with Pudsey Bear!

STAFF and families from Fun Foundations Day Nursery, took part in a 'Super Hero Sprint' down Cowbridge High Street to raise funds for Children in Need.

"Pudsey Bear made an appearance, which caused lots of excitement among the children! The total to date for the event is £452.31, with parents still bringing in sponsorship money. Well done, and thank you to all who took part!" a spokesperson said.

Computer problems?

Virus? Printer problems?
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'CARDIFF BURN' DRAWS COMPETITORS TO HILLS AND DALES OF COWBRIDGE

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374 478

ON Sunday, November 16, the 'Cardiff Burn' race took place at Llwynhelig near Cowbridge.

It was a 10K obstacle race up hill and down dale in muddy conditions.

There were lots of competitors from the Vale, but also from across south Wales, and as you can see from Andy Wicks' images everyone had a fun time.

ABOVE: A careful descent in the muddy conditions.

LEFT: Competitors came from all round south and west Wales, including this group from Llantwit Major.

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

DICKENSIAN FAYRE – DINAS POWYS

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER 2014

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 5th December 2014	**Station Road** from its junction with Britway Road adjacent to The Square, to the vehicle access to the Star Hotel (both sides of The Twyn). Local diversions shall be in place via The Mount and Britway Road.	5.00pm to 9.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 20th day of November 2014

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

Follow The GEM on Twitter - *@gem_news*

The town of Cowbridge pays tribute on 'Armistice Day'

On November 11 at 11am, Cowbridge was silent for the two-minute silence. Despite the rain at least 100 members of the public were at the War Memorial, along with the mayor and councillors to hear Rev Norman Williams conduct a brief service.
PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK.

Good reader response on William Thomas Radcliffe

RECENTLY Lynne Gladstone-Millar wrote an article in the Glamorgan GEM appealing for information on a Vale soldier, William Thomas Radcliffe, who died during the First World War while serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

William was a close friend of Lynne's father. A tree is to be dedicated to William in the Pentland Hills in Scotland.

Lynne has been delighted with the enthusiastic response of GEM readers to her appeal.

The GEM would like to point out that William's surname is Radcliffe and not Ratcliffe.

NFU SPEAKER

NFU chief dairy adviser, Sian Davies, will be addressing Glamorgan NFU Cymru members at their AGM on November 26 at 7.30pm in Grove Golf Club, Cornelly.

She recently returned having worked in the NFU office in Brussels for three years, covering EU agricultural policies.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
(LLANBLETHIAN PUBLIC FOOTPATH Nos. 18 and 20) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

On the 20th November 2014 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will come into force on 24th November 2014 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Llanblethian Public Footpath Nos 18 and 20) (Temporary Closure) Order 2014.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 20th November 2014 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall proceed on foot in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location — **Llanblethian Public Footpath No. 18** closed throughout its length, this footpath extends from the footpath known as Llanblethian No 17b in a generally northwesterly direction to where it to meet footpaths known as Llanblethian No's 19a & 20.

Location — **Llanblethian Public Footpath No. 20** closed throughout its length. This path extends from the rear of the car park to the rear of Middlegate Court to its cul-de-sac end to the northeast of the bridge where this path meets Footpath Llanblethian number 18.

Alt. Route — Diversions for this closure will be in a generally south westerly direction along the remaining open section of footpath Llanblethian No 19a adjacent to the town hall car park, then in a generally southerly direction along Town Hall Square, then in a generally south easterly direction along High Street and Eastgate, then in a north easterly direction along Druids Green, and Millfield Drive to where the road meets footpath Llanblethian No 17b, then along footpath Llanblethian No 17b to its junction with footpath Llanblethian No 18, and visa-versa.

Reason — To allow gas mains renewal work to take place along, and in the vicinity of the footpaths known as Llanblethian numbers 18, and 20.

Duration — From 07.00 Monday 24th November 2014 for a maximum period of six months or completion of works (estimated at 12th December 2014), whichever is the earlier.

Signing: Appropriate temporary signing will indicate the alternative route.

Dated this 20th day of November 2014

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014
GORCHYMYN CAU LLWYBRAU TROED 18 AC 20 LLANFLEIDDAN (DROS DRO)

Ar 20 Tachwedd 2014 yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlenni isod:

Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 24 Tachwedd 2014, ac fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Dros Dro) (Llwybrau Troed 18 ac 20 Llanfleiddan) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014.

Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 20 Tachwedd 2014 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded yn y lleoliadau a nodwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad — Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 18 Llanfleiddan – bydd y llwybr yn cau ar ei hyd. Mae'n arwain o'r llwybr a adwaenir fel 'Llwybr Troed 17b Llanfleiddan' i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y gogledd orllewin hyd at y llwybrau a adwaenir fel 'Llwybrau Troed 19a ac 20 Llanfleiddan'.

Lleoliad — Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 20 Llanfleiddan – bydd y llwybr yn cau ar ei hyd. Mae'n arwain o gefn y maes parcio, hyd at fan sydd i'r de o Middlegate Court, ac ymlaen wedyn y tu hwnt i'r bompren, hyd at Lwybr Troed 18 Llanfleiddan. Mae'n ymestyn ychydig ymhellach wedyn nes darfod o'r llwybr pengaead.

Llwybr arall — Tra bod y llwybrau hyn ar gau, byddwn yn ailgyfeirio'r cyhoedd i'r de orllewin, ar hyd yr unig ddarn o 'Lwybr Troed 19a Llanfleiddan' a fydd ar agor o hyd, wrth ymyl maes parcio Neuadd y Dref. Bydd yn rhaid troi o'r fan honno i gyfeiriad y de, ar hyd Sgwâr Neuadd y Dref, ac yna i'r de ddwyrain ar hyd High Street ac Eastgate. Bydd angen cerdded wedyn i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrain, ar hyd Druids' Green a Millfield Drive, hyd at y fan lle y mae'r ffordd yn cwrdd â 'Llwybr Troed ar hyd 17b Llanfleiddan'. O'r diwedd, bydd yn rhaid cerdded 'Llwybr Troed 17b Llanfleiddan' hyd at y gyffordd â 'Llwybr Troed 18 Llanfleiddan'. Bydd y daith yn ôl yn dilyn yr un cyfeiriadau'n union, ond o chwith.

Rheswm — Caniatáu adnewyddu prif bibellau nwy ar hyd 'Llwybrau Troed 18 ac 20 Llanfleiddan' ac yn y cyffiniau.

Cyfnod — O 07.00 ar ddydd Llun 24 Tachwedd 2014 am chwe mis yn unig, a chyn hynny, os bydd yr holl waith wedi'i gwblhau. (Rhagwelwn y deuwn i ben erbyn 12 Rhagfyr 2014).

Arwyddion: Bydd arwyddion addas ar gael i ddangos y llwybr newydd.

Dyddiedig 13 Tachwedd 2014

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau,
Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

We invite you to a...
Memorial Carol Service
in our chapel at
A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry
Thursday 4th December 2014 at 7.00pm
It will be a time when we can think of those we have lost and to share this service with others.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED IN THE FOYER FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.
You are invited to take a remembrance bauble, write your message on it and hang it on the Remembrance Christmas Tree.
Thank you, from:
Robert Fouracre Senior Funeral Director
Anthony Thomas Funeral Director
Mary Litherland Funeral Arranger
Howard Provis Funeral Arranger
Any donations received in memory of a loved one will be forwarded to the Barry Nippers

Mobile phones cost the council £70,000

A FREEDOM of Information request by the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives has found that the Vale Council pays for more than 1,000 of its employees to have mobile phones for work use at a cost to the taxpayer of around £70,000 a year.

The spending has been challenged by local Conservatives who have questioned its value for money.

The FOI reveals that the council has 1,085 mobile phone contracts for staff at an annual cost of approximately £68,500.

A spokesperson for the Conservatives in the Vale Council said: "In light of the difficult financial circumstances faced by the Vale council and many other councils throughout Wales, it would be sensible for the Labour-led administration to look at reducing non-essential expenditure on things like staff mobile phones.

"This is a significant sum of public money and you have to ask whether a thousand or more mobile phones are really necessary."

David Vining, the Vale Council's head of strategic ICT, explained: "Mobile phones are essential for frontline staff to do their jobs and mobile working enables many council officers to work more efficiently. The council's mobile phone contract is an example of how the Vale Council has significantly reduced costs through more effective procurement.

"The council currently has a mobile phone contract with O2 that was procured through a Government Procurement Services framework agreement.

"This contract came into effect in 2012/13 and has reduced expenditure on staff mobile phones by over £120,000 since then.

"Under the terms of the current contract, the council spends less than £3 per month to service each handset," he pointed out.

Disability group's work an 'inspiration'
SAYS THE VALE MP

All smiles at the day centre.

A DAY centre for Vale residents with physical disabilities in Barry was described by Vale MP Alun Cairns as an "inspiration" after a recent visit.

He met the group at New Horizons Day Centre in the town to see how it helps residents of all ages with physical disabilities continue to develop skills in crafts, music and fitness.

"The group meets on a daily basis, and plays an important social role for people with a wide range of physical challenges," Mr Cairns said.

Louise Payne, acting day service manager commented: "The Vale of Glamorgan Council's New Horizons Day Service provides vital services for physically disabled people living in the county. We help people reach their personal goals in a safe and encouraging environment.

"Our committed staff provide a wide range of activities that are both therapeutic and life enhancing, and ensure that there is never a dull moment at New Horizons."

Mr Cairns added: "The visit to the New Horizons Club in Barry was an inspirational visit. It was wonderful to see such creativity and impressive achievements by people from all walks of life and background.

"Some members of the group have lived with the physical challenges for many years, and some have encountered more recent problems – but what is most impressive is that they are all treated with equal care and welcomed into such an inspiring group."

Roadworks report

TEMPORARY traffic control – B4265 from Gileston Cross to the Old Mill, St Athan; Skomer Road, Barry; Ruthin Road, Llangan; B4265 Wick Road, St Brides Major; Port Road East between the junction of Stirling Road and Weycock Cross roundabout, Barry; Dochdwy Road, Sully; Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys; Trem Echni, Rhoose Point.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(A4050 PORT ROAD (EAST), WENVOE) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2014

On the 20th November 2014 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

The Order will come into operation on the 24th November 2014 or on the date that the necessary Traffic Signs are in place whichever is the later and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 24th November 2014 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	The area of the A4050 Port Road (East) Wenvoe, affected is between the roundabout at St Andrews Road and the roundabout at Old Port Road Wenvoe. In addition, the Order known as "The Vale of Glamorgan A4050 Port Road (East) Barry (Amendment to Existing 40 / 50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2011" shall be suspended in part for the duration of this Order.
Reason	To allow adjacent highway access and service connection works to be undertaken.
Duration	From 06:00Hrs on Monday 24th November 2014, for a period of 18 months or until the 30mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

It is anticipated that these works will only take three months

Dated this 20th day of November 2014

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services and Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA

Young people and the Welsh NHS are Budget's top priorities

IT IS commonly understood that the Welsh Government's Budget for 2015/16 is going to be tough, with a 10 per cent real terms cut to our grant from the UK Government and increasing pressures on our public services.

Over the past few months, I have been talking to people who work in our public services – doctors, nurses, social workers, library assistants, teachers, leisure centre staff, social housing providers and advice workers in the voluntary sector who have given their views on what our priorities should be.

They have all said we should invest in prevention and early intervention to support families and communities.

There has been a clear call for our children and young people to be a main priority – investing in services such as Flying Start providing childcare and parenting support in our most disadvantaged areas, as well as supporting the Pupil Deprivation Grant and funding for schools.

I have also met with young people to discuss with them what our Budget contains, what their priorities are and what they think of our plans.

It included a visit this week to the new Penarth Learning Community with Huw Lewis AM, the Minister for Education and Skills, to meet pupils and tour these wonderful new schools – incorporating Ysgol y Deri and St Cyres Comprehensive School, and seeing facilities which cannot be found anywhere else in the UK for children and young people with special educational needs.

This new building was funded with £33.3m of Welsh Government funding and will undoubtedly have a transformational impact on the educational opportunities of all the pupils in these new schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Meeting the two headteachers, Chris Britten and Jonathan Hicks, provided a great opportunity to share with them the delight we saw in the pupils' response to their fantastic new surroundings, equipment and facilities.

I announced further substantial funding for our 21st century schools buildings programme in our Draft Budget debate on Tuesday, via a new source of funding we are developing using a non-profit distributing (NPD investment) model which is also being used to re-develop the Velindre Cancer Centre.

The new investment will fund Band B of the 21st century building programme following the current phase (Band A) which was boosted by £170m of innovative funding via our local government borrowing initiative earlier this year.

Being in Government provides opportunities, as well as challenges and it requires us to make decisions which can make a difference, particularly to young people, so our commitments to protecting schools funding by 1 per cent above the Wales Budget overall is important – as is our commitment to maintain funding for the educational maintenance allowance (EMA) at £30 a week for eligible students.

We are also keeping our commitment in respect of university fees and keeping the most generous means-tested grant support system of any UK administration.

Providing an extra £44m next year to increase the pupil deprivation grant (PDG) from £918 per eligible pupil (this year's level) to £1,050 in 2015/16, and higher the following year, will help schools support the pupils who most need our help.

This investment builds on our existing programme as a result of our Budget agreement with the Welsh Liberal Democrats and is an important response to our shared commitment to break the link between poverty and educational attainment.

The PDG will also extend to the under-fives and our agreement with the Liberal Democrats includes establishing a new youth concessionary fare scheme for 16 and 17-year-olds, starting in September 2015.

I have met many employers and young people in the Vale of Glamorgan who have benefited from our Jobs Growth Wales programme for 16 – 25-year-olds and this will continue to be supported by the Welsh Government and the European Social Fund in next year's Budget.

So the priorities for next year's Budget debated this week in the Senedd are clear. Young people are at the forefront of our spending plans, alongside more support for our Welsh NHS, with a £225m boost in 2015/16 and a £200m uplift this year.

We need to be clear, fair and decisive and we will take up new avenues for funding our capital programmes to build more schools like the Penarth Learning Community - Llantwit Major will be the next in line for this investment – with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

Lottery boosts Vale by £31.8m

NEW figures reveal that The National Lottery has provided £31.8 million for Vale projects since the first draw on November 19, 1994.

In the past two decades 1,372 grants were awarded to individuals and organisations. The largest grant totalled over £6.1 million to help restore Dyffryn Gardens in 1997 and 1999.

The smallest grant was for £40 awarded in 2011 to Barry Athletic Football Club mini section for coaching. Among the first National Lottery grants was £330,000 awarded in 1995 for the redevelopment of the Tythe Barn at St Donats Arts Centre.

Other local Lottery-funded projects include over £1.1 million to repair and upgrade Penarth Pier in 1996; then over £1.7 million towards the Penarth Pavilion Project in 2009; also over £887,000 in 2011 to Vale Centre For Voluntary Services to offer befriending projects to reduce loneliness and isolation of older people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

PACT meetings

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Residents' Board, Coychurch Rise on December 2 at 10.30am.

Deaf Pact Meeting, Station 20, Barry Fire Station on December 4 at 6.30pm.

DYFAN PACT, Highlight Park Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry on December 8 at 7.30pm.

STANWELL PACT, Glyndwr Hall, Glyndwr Road on November 28 at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Royal British Legion on December 8 at 7pm.

PLYMOUTH PACT, Brockhill Community Centre on December 10 at 7pm.

SULLY PACT, The Cricket Pavilion on December 11 at 6.30pm.

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RAF personnel from MoD St Athan take part in drawdown

PICTURED (left to right): SAC(T) Mark Shaw, Cpl Daz Walsh, Cpl Chris Elespe, Chf Tech Ian Savage, Cpl Iain Stubbs, SAC(T) Billy Easton and Cpl Chris Morgan.

CHIEF Technician (Chf Tech) Ian Savage, along with a team specialist airmen and women, who have all trained at MoD St Athan, have recently been welcomed home to the UK after taking part in the drawdown of UK Armed Forces at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan.

A spokesperson reports: The move from Camp Bastion was a huge undertaking, preparations for which had been ongoing for several years.

As part of 903 Expeditionary Air Wing (903EAW) Chf Tech Savage and his team of mechanical and electrical technicians supported a wide range of equipment. These included airfield fire and rescue vehicles, air cargo handling equipment, and passenger x-ray machines, all of which were vital to keeping the air bridge open.

In addition to this task, they were responsible for equipment to enable the redeployment of personnel and equipment from Camp Bastion, as well as the support equipment for the helicopters of all three services.

Their contribution enabled the success of missions including movement and support of troops on the ground, intelligence gathering and the highly important casualty evacuation role.

Almost all the equipment used in Afghanistan over the past 13 years has had to be redeployed. Every item of equipment, including that used by the St Athan trained airmen, had to be accounted for. Toolkits, spare parts and larger items of equipment such as ground power sets and aircraft passenger access steps has to leave in the correct order, at the correct time and in the correct condition and this was a huge undertaking for the team.

As the amount of equipment reduced, the importance of keeping the remaining equipment serviceable and functioning increased. During this time, inevitably some of the equipment failed in the harsh desert environment, with daily temperatures often reaching well over 40 degrees and the team rose to every challenge that befell them.

Over the years many of the team had made numerous trips to Afghanistan. However, some of the younger members were experiencing their first taste of operational service and quite rightly felt privileged to be involved at such a crucial stage of events.

RAF personnel undertake tours of four months or longer and take over from colleagues who have had served similar length tours. Personnel from 4SoTT support operations and continually deploy throughout the world on a rotational basis.

These operational tours, together with their specialist trade knowledge, gives the 4SoTT instructors vital experience and currency. This knowledge, experience and professional confidence is then passed on to trainees and students to assist with pre deployment training at the school.

Tories vow to stop Vale and Bridgend getting together

THE Vale Council and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have announced that they are keen on merging, while Conservatives in the Vale have vowed to stop the plan.

Since the Williams Commission produced its report for the Welsh Government (WG), saying that the number of local authorities in Wales should be cut from 22 to around 12, it has appeared likely that a merger would have to take place.

There was pressure on the Vale Council to merge with Cardiff, and on BCBC to merge with Neath Port Talbot.

Last week, the Vale Council Leader, Coun Neil Moore, emailed councillors saying: "In view of developments since the last meeting of full council on September 29, 2014, including the outcome of discussions with a variety of partners on the options available to the council, I now believe that the Vale Council should seek a voluntary early merger with BCBC".

The councils have until November 28 to tell the WG of their interest in a voluntary merger.

BCBC is solidly Labour, while in the Vale, Labour is very much the senior partner in a coalition with the Llantwit Firsts.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, strongly opposed a merger with Cardiff – and they are equally unhappy with BCBC!

The Leader of the Conservatives in the Vale Council, Coun John Thomas, said: "The Conservative group will vigorously oppose these plans. Councillors of all parties, including Labour, voted against a merger with Cardiff on the basis that the Vale has the potential to be a viable and successful authority. What has changed?

"Earlier this year, Coun Moore described the Williams' proposals as a 'slaughter of local government' and I would urge him to put Vale residents above narrow party interest and abandon these discussions."

The Conservatives also attacked on another front, with a regional AM, Suzy Davies, putting in a Freedom of Information request, asking what consultation measures had been taken by BCBC.

One of the questions posed by a merger is how council tax would be collected. A Band D property, for instance, is more expensive in BCBC than in the Vale.

Upon merger, it would seem that the only harmonisation solution would be for Vale residents to pay more, and BCBC residents to pay less!

The number of councillors needed would be fewer, and it is likely that both the Vale and BCBC would lose between 12 and 14 councillors.

(See next week's GEM for more on this.)

Charity coffee morning

THERE will be a coffee morning in the All Saints Church Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, this Saturday, November 22, from 10am until 11.30am.

Admission (50p) will include tea/coffee.

Plenty of bargains to be found! All proceeds to charity.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for November 13, 2014 is:

DAPHNE SHACKSON

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

Congratulations, Daphne!

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Tidy Wales annual recycling awards

RECYCLING enthusiasts are being urged to apply for a Recycling Innovation Award, as part of the Tidy Wales Awards 2014.

They are open to small scale community projects and organisations who "take innovative measures to reduce, reuse or recycle waste through their activities".

The Keep Wales Tidy environmental charity, which runs the Tidy Wales Awards, is again calling on volunteer groups, schools and organisations across Wales to put their names forward by November 28.

The shortlisted three groups will be invited to the award ceremony in Cardiff next February, hosted by S4C presenter Sian Thomas and Keep Wales Tidy Ambassador, former Welsh Rugby star, Tom Shanklin.

The overall category winner will be announced at the ceremony and will receive a £250 cash prize.

Download an application form from the Keep Wales Tidy website www.keepwalestidy.org or e-mail twa@keepwalestidy.org.

Ukip names local man as its candidate for the Vale constituency

by GEM REPORTER

ABOVE: Kevin Mahoney.

UKIP has announced that its Vale candidate for the forthcoming 2015 General election will be a local man Kevin Mahoney.

He is the third person to enter the fray. Alun Cairns, the local MP, is standing for the Conservatives, and Vale cabinet member, Chris Elmore, is representing Labour.

Mr Mahoney was selected last week at a meeting of the recently formed Vale Ukip branch.

He is an engineering supervisor, was brought up in Sully and now lives near Barry docks. He was elected on to the Vale Council in 2012 and has previously represented Ukip in general, Welsh and European elections.

Mr Mahoney pointed out he was the only Vale councillor who refused to accept the recent pay rise awarded to Welsh councillors, in addition to taking a voluntary additional £800 per annum pay cut from the local authority in protest at wage and 'working week cuts' proposed for council workers.

He told The GEM: "As an ordinary working guy disgusted with the actions of the current political class, I am standing in order that voters have a real alternative in the Vale to voice their own feelings about our future. If people want to raise an issue with me, I can be contacted on 01446 746671."

Operation Christmas Child needs volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to assist with the checking of shoeboxes in connection with this year's Operation Christmas Child campaign.

The warehouse being used this year is Unit C39 on the Llandow Industrial Estate, Cowbridge and those interested in helping are asked to turn up at the warehouse where Mr and Mrs Ted Bird, Mr and Mrs Roy Hibbert together with Mrs Leanne Popham and others are busy checking boxes already collected.

Last year, over 25,000 boxes were collected in south Wales and sent off to children in a number of east European countries and, hopefully, this figure will be achieved again this year.

Supplies of ready-wrapped empty boxes are available at the warehouse, which is open from 10am each day.

GREAT WAR AT ART CENTRAL

THE Vale Council's art gallery, Art Central, is hosting an exhibition of remembrance marking the 100 year anniversary since the beginning of World War One.

The exhibition will provide a variety of interesting, stimulating and thought-provoking exhibits, including work by a selection of artists, local stories that include artist Suzanne Grover, who is showing a triptych of her family members in tribute to the Great War, together with an interactive display by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) entitled 'Hope in the Great War', all transporting the viewer back in time to 100 years ago.

Among the artists will also be Cardiff based photographer Jon Poutney, who will be showing monochrome photographs of First World War memorials and monuments from across the Vale.

Poutney has photographed these iconic memorials using a 1930s German 'Voigtlander' camera, gifted to his grandfather by an Italian prisoner of war during World War Two. The camera produces beautiful nostalgic photographs that create a reflective and invaluable visual story for many years to come.

Accompanying Poutney will be Welsh ceramicist Tracey Baker. Taking inspiration from the war horses used in battle during World War One, Baker creates hauntingly beautiful and captivating sculptural artworks that stir and move the viewer.

The exhibition 'Remembering the Great War' will be on display at Art Central until January 3, 2015. The gallery is open to the public from 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday, and entry is free.

Biggar signs up for Oil 4 Wales

OSPREYS' fly-half Dan Biggar is the latest Welsh international rugby player to join Oil 4 Wales as a brand ambassador.

The Swansea-born player joins Wales' current kicking coach Neil Jenkins and Welsh international players Ken Owens, Dan Lydiate, Rhys Priestland, Ryan Jones, Jonathan Davies and former Welsh international Dafydd Jones to support the independent oil distribution company.

As the oil brand for Wales, Oil 4 Wales has a strong affiliation with Welsh rugby sponsoring the Scarlets, Newport Gwent Dragons, Ospreys and Cardiff Blues teams, as well as supplying some of the country's leading players.

Colin Owens, managing director of Oil 4 Wales, said: "We are a proud Welsh company and are delighted to be able to support Welsh rugby. Our slogan is 'working with the community, for the community' and having brand ambassadors on board like Dan is a great way to thank our loyal customers. Dan's commitment and passion for Welsh rugby is exactly the same ethos we have at Oil 4 Wales so we know he will be a great addition to the team."

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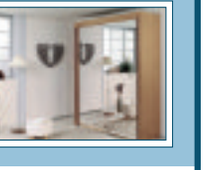

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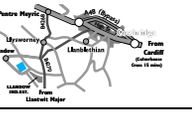

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INSIGHT INTO THE ARMY IN WALES

PICTURES BY HEATHER MARCH

THE Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck, hosted the annual Lieutenancy dinner last week when the guest speaker was Brigadier Martyn Gamble, Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade, who gave an account of the current duties and responsibilities of the army in Wales and globally.

Five new Deputy Lieutenants were commissioned, including three from the Vale of Glamorgan: Colonel Kevin Davies from Cowbridge, Mr David Jenkins from Barry (the present High Sheriff) and Commander Neil Pugh from Penarth.

Brigadier Gamble with the Lord Lieutenant.

David Jenkins.

Commander Neil Pugh (HMS Cambria) receives his commission.

Are you going to Romilly fayre?

ROMILLY Primary School Christmas fayre will be held on Saturday, November 29 from 1pm-4pm; Santa's grotto, craft stalls, bouncy castle, face painting.

Berry the puppy leads campaign!

A PORTHCAWL woman is leading a festive recruitment drive for Guide Dogs Cymru – with the help of a puppy named Berry!

Sandra Corben, of Newton, is a familiar sight in the town as she prepares the nine-month-old golden retriever puppy for advanced guide dog training.

Mrs Corben, a first-time puppy walker, is urging more people to volunteer at a recruitment event in Trinity Church, Porthcawl, on Tuesday, November 25.

"Puppy walking for Guide Dogs was something my late husband and I always planned to do," said Mrs Corben. "We loved dogs, having owned golden retrievers for 30 years. "Sadly, I was widowed last year. I knew I would need a project to keep me focused and give me something to get up for each day. I decided to go ahead with our plans."

Berry arrived in March, aged eight weeks, and will stay until spring. "When the time comes, I know it won't be easy handing her back to Guide Dogs," said Mrs Corben. "But it will be a positive goodbye as she goes on to better things."

Sandra Corben and Berry out shopping.

Becoming a puppy walker has helped her make a whole new group of friends. "We meet up with our pups and let them enjoy free running time together," she said. "When I'm out, people are friendly and want to know more about Berry, and the work of Guide Dogs in general.

"It's my job to introduce Berry to as many new sights and sounds as possible. It's good to include the puppy in your daily routine, visiting shops and garden centres, doing the school run, going on public transport and joining in family days.

"There's great support from Guide Dogs staff, plus puppy training classes for exchanging tips and ideas."

Guide Dogs supplies basic equipment and covers all veterinary and feeding expenses. Volunteers need access to a car, and their yard or garden must be securely fenced to keep the puppy safe.

They need to be with the puppy for most of the day, and free to take it into many varied environments – sometimes busy and difficult.

"Puppy walking is just the challenge I needed," said Mrs Corben. "Will I do it again after Berry goes? You bet!"

Find out more at Trinity Church, Porthcawl, between 11am-3pm on November 25. For more details, e m a i l Steve.Kersley@guidedogs.org.uk or ring him on 07785 907728.

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Prince Charles in plea to value the countryside

PRINCE CHARLES has warned that unless we all learn to value what the countryside provides, the familiar British landscape will be lost forever.

In Country Life he has written: "The rich, natural tapestry that is the countryside we value so highly does not just happen by itself. But that delicately woven tapestry is facing unprecedented challenges.

"Start pulling out the threads and the rest unravels very rapidly indeed, and is very difficult to put back again – no farmers, no beautiful landscapes with hedgerows and stone walls; no thriving rural communities, no villages – or village pubs; no local markets, no distinctive local foods. Somehow, we need to find a way to put a value on our countryside, with all its facets."

The Prince's Countryside Fund, founded by Prince Charles, who has a long-held commitment to supporting Britain's hard-pressed rural areas, was set up by Business in the Community in July 2010. With support from businesses and donations from the public it has been able to invest £4.4 million by providing grants that have directly benefitted 80,000 people living and working in our rural communities in greatest need.

Helen Aldis, manager of The Prince's Countryside Fund, said: "Our work to support and sustain rural communities would not be possible without the generous contributions of our supporting companies and individuals alike.

"In addition to contributing to the funding of 105 projects across the UK to date, the quick and generous reaction to the plight of the farmers and communities hit by the devastating floods in early 2014 is a testament to how businesses and communities can work together in times of crisis.

"However, we must continue to invest in supporting the people who care for the countryside, to ensure it flourishes and survives for future generations."

GEM readers' response to Africa appeal was simply 'overwhelming'

IN your January 30 edition of The GEM, you published my appeal for warm clothing and hand tools for a project/charity.

The response was overwhelming; the goods were packed in 27 banana boxes on their journey to the village of Yomba and the surrounding isolated community.

Eventually, all arrived by sea-container and road – a long journey.

I encose photographic proof (*top right*) that the village children gratefully acknowledge the gifts in late October.

Roy Gee,
Dinas Powys.

The African children were delighted with readers' gifts

Porthkerry theft case is postponed

A JURY at Cardiff Crown Court, trying two women who are alleged to have broken into a Vale of Glamorgan country house and stolen jewellery and watches worth £100,000 has been discharged, writes AJ SICLUNA.

On the second day of the trial, following discussions between counsel and Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones, which cannot be reported for legal reasons, the case came to an end and will be relisted in the future.

Paula Miles (34) and Claire Gimblett (39), both of Peacehaven, Tredegar, were granted bail.

They had each pleaded not guilty to burgling Porthkerry House, Porthkerry, and stealing property.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S DISPLAY AT LOCAL RESTAURANT

LOCAL Penarth restaurant The Bistro, has teamed up with local photographer Kevin Moore to launch a new photographic exhibition that will run from 6pm, Thursday, November 27.

Cheryl Day, proprietor of The Bistro, says she is "delighted" to promote local art and literary events.

The exhibition follows the success of The Bistro's Dylan Thomas evening where well-known actors Lynn Hunter and Nathan Sussex gave readings from Dylan Thomas.

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Moving occasion as the community pulls together for old soldier Harold

by PHILIP IRWIN

A FUNERAL in St Athan last Thursday (November 13) proved to be a fitting end to a remarkable social media campaign to mark the life of an 85-year-old local man.

Following the death of former Welsh Guard Harold Morgan, who lived in a care home in Barry for 14 years, it had been feared that nobody would turn up after funeral directors and the church struggled to track down family and friends.

However, thanks to an appeal launched on Facebook by the vicar who presided over his service, a contingent of Welsh Guards joined local veterans to give him a proper send-off.

Local people and friends of Mr Morgan also came forward as a result of the appeal.

The Revd Rachel Simpson said, "When we first had the details of the funeral come through we were given no next of kin details, which is very unusual, so I was worried at the service there would only be the solicitors and the nurses from the nursing home, and that's not a very nice way to go."

But after the story was taken up across the country and Rachel was interviewed by television and radio, including Radio 4's *Today* programme, more and more people came forward wanting to attend and in the end the church was packed.

The Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne said: "I am deeply grateful for the particular care that Revd Rachel Simpson took over the funeral of Harold Morgan.

"It would have been tragic if this old soldier's funeral had gone unnoticed, particularly in this week of poignant Remembrance.

"A passage from Ecclesiasticus, often read at funerals, speaks of those who seem unremembered, disappearing as though they had not existed, as though they had never been.

"The book was written 22 centuries ago, so clearly no-shows at funerals were a feature then! I have taken funerals of very elderly people, attended by very few, simply because their relations and friends have died before them or moved far away."

A local man, William Henderson, attended the funeral and said: "The Welsh Guards resplendent in their full dress uniforms and complete with their bandsmen, formed the guard of honour, with members of the RAF and students of a military college.

"South Wales Police joined members of other civilian services to line the long approach from the road to the church and with The Royal British Legion standard bearers, the coffin was escorted into the church, with every seat and pew filled.

"Little could Harold have imagined when he wrote his will out many years ago, stating he wanted his funeral to be in St Tathan Church, what a wonderful gathering would attend.

"In the eulogy Rachel read a hand delivered letter that had come from Warwickshire, which read as follows: 'NO Welsh Guardsman serves or dies alone. We are family'.

"It was from Field Marshal Charles the Lord Guthrie; Major-General Christopher Drewery; Lt Col David Lewis; and all the family of the late Major William Mostyn Worrall MC.

"It has to be said, however, that in this instance, as the members of the Welsh Guards readily admit, somehow Harold slipped through their net but we are fairly sure he would have felt his send off at St Tathan at least addressed that omission.

"Did this funeral create much outside interest? The day after the funeral the Parish Office had an e-mail from CBS News in New York, asking how many people attended and how old was the Welsh Guardsman, so dear reader, your guess is as good as mine!"

Present at the funeral was Vale MP Alun Cairns, who said: "The local community came out in what was a wonderful act of support for Mr Morgan at the funeral. The service was very well attended, and it was such a fitting event for the former Welsh Guardsman in a week where we remembered so many."

Through the Facebook appeal it emerged Mr Morgan, who had lived in Owain Court before moving to a care home in Barry, was a founding member of the Welsh Railways Research Circle.

Rodney Hall, secretary of the Welsh Railways Research Circle, confirmed a number of the group's members were at the funeral.

He said: "A couple of our members continued to visit Mr Morgan when he went into the home. But it appears they did not get the message he had passed away".

Following Mr Morgan's funeral in St Athan, he had a green interment at a burial field in Abermule, Montgomeryshire last Friday – at a site overlooking the Cambrian Railway.

Mr Morgan, who had been a railway signalman, did his national service with the Welsh Guards and was posted to Egypt.

Ken Ball, of Park Funeral Diectors, told The GEM that they had been delighted that, with the help of all the other parties, they had been able to fulfil Mr Morgan's wishes.

He said: "Harold had clearly planned his funeral in some detail, and we were glad to play a part in this fitting conclusion to his life."

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Senior Citizens

THE November meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens is today (Thursday, November 20) at 2pm at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The speaker is Stephen Jarvis, and the topic is 'Cooking up the past'

The Christmas lunch is at the Bear Hotel on Thursday, December 18. Names must be given at the meeting, or telephone Mavis Ashford on 01446 775508.

Jazz meeting

THE Vale Jazz Festival group is inviting the public to a meeting to discuss funding plans today (November 20) at 7pm in Barry Civic Offices.

The group invited the VCVS along to discuss approving a constitution and applying for Arts Council funding.

Newydd Housing has become the latest company to back the festival which is planned for Barry Island in June 2015.

Anti-poverty centre opens

A NEW 'Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre' is being launched on November 21 in the Wesley Methodist Church, Tondu at 7.30pm.

Christians Against Poverty helps people to get free from debt and is a free service completely run by donations and supported by local churches.

The head office is in Bradford and there are about 300 centres in the UK and also in Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

"The churches in the Aberkenfig district are working together and last year opened 'The Store House' charity shop that is run by volunteers and is helping to fund the centre," Marlene Ockwell, CAP centre manager explained.

Dinas surgery

A FREE coffee morning for residents will be held on Saturday, November 22 in the Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys at 11am, to meet local county and community councillors.

Alternatively, Plaid councillors can be contacted directly: Chris Franks 07725 497423; Val Hartrey 02920 513274, and Keith Hatton 07749 825751.

Plant trees for heroes

VOLUNTEERS will be needed to plant another 400 trees along Port Road East as a living memorial to the 700 Barrians who never returned from the First World War.

The event will take place on Saturday (November 22) meeting at the junction of Merthyr Dyfan Road and Port Road East at 12 midday.

For further information, phone Rob Curtis on 01446 736287.

University drop-in

THE Open University will be holding a drop-in information session at Cowbridge Library on Saturday, November 22 from 10am – 2pm. For more information, contact *www.open.ac.uk/wales* or call 02920 471170.

Church fayre

ALL Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, is holding a craft fayre and coffee morning in the church on Saturday, November 22 from 10.30am to 1pm.

Handmade gifts, cards, jams, pickles, Christmas decorations, bric-a-brac, tombola, cake stall, raffles. Entrance 50p, payable at the door. All proceeds go to church funds.

Autumn fayre at Dinas Powys

THE parish of St Andrew Major autumn fayre on Saturday, November 22, at the Parish and Lee Halls, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, will be opened by Father Christmas at 2pm.

Handmade gifts, cards, Christmas decorations, White Elephants, books and cakes.

Charities receiving donations from this year's fayre include the DEC Ebola Crisis Appeal, Help for Heroes and the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Ebola appeal

NAZARETH Baptist Chapel, Wigan Terrace, Bryncethin holds a Christmas fair on Saturday, November 22 from 12pm – 2pm to raise funds for Ebola Appeal.

Hospital staff pack down for colleague

STAFF at the Welsh Ambulance Service and University of Wales Hospital accident and emergency department are organising a charity rugby match – to raise money for a sick colleague.

Adrian Cook, a paramedic in the HART team in Bridgend was recently diagnosed with cancer and his friends and colleagues have rallied to support his fundraising efforts. All proceeds from the rugby match will be going to Adrian's chosen charity, Marie Curie.

Staff from the Welsh Ambulance Service will meet University of Wales Hospital emergency unit staff in a battle on the pitch at Cardiff Arms Park on November 23 at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £2.50 and are available on the day.

To donate a raffle prize, book tickets or for more information call Fran Joyce on 07932 018406.

Oldcastle PACT

THE Oldcastle PACT meets on November 26 at 6.30pm in Brynteg Lower School Library. Members of the neighbourhood policing team and local councillors will be in attendance to discuss any issues that residents may have.

Age Connect host Christmas fayre

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale is holding a Christmas fayre on Thursday, November 27 at the Civic Offices, Corporate Suite, Holton Road, Barry. The fayre will be opened at 10.30am by Coun Howard Hamilton, Mayor of the Vale .

Admission to the fayre is free. Stalls to include cakes, crafts, home made preserves, bric-a-brac, 'prize every time' and more, with bargains galore.

Refreshments, tea/coffee available. There will also be a grand prize draw with many attractive prizes. Tickets 20p each.

All proceeds of the fayre go to Age Connect Cardiff and Vale Ageing Well Project, Senior Health Shop, Barry. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Ynysawdre hall choir date

YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening with The Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir on Friday, November 28 at 7pm.

Admission is £5 and includes a homemade cake and tea or coffee. For tickets, call Mair on 01656 722115.

DH

School concert

HOLTON Primary School's junior choir will be performing a musical concert at Crossway Methodist Church in Barry, on Wednesday, November 26 at 2pm.

Tickets £2 each (including refreshments afterwards), young children are admitted free with a paying adult. All proceeds will go towards the church interior Space project and the Vale Methodist area Zambia schools project.

Tickets are available from the minister, Rev Peter Taylor, on 01446 406262 or revpete@live.co.uk, church members or from the school office.

Luncheon club

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First run a luncheon club for those aged 55 and over on the first Wednesday of every month, 12pm – 2pm at Parkside Christian Centre, St Brides Way, Barry.

Contact 01446 709432 or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

THE SEAGULL INN has recently benefited from an extensive redevelopment scheme which we hope will see the site become an integral part of the community of the seaside town of Porthcawl, following its opening on 17th November.

The latest addition to the Brains managed estate has had a full refurbishment of its interior and kitchen facilities, adding a fresh and modern feel to this traditional site. Care has been taken to maintain a community pub feel with the inclusion of darts, pool and Sky Sports in the bar, whilst the lounge remains an informal environment for dining and drinks with friends and family.

The pub now showcases our 'Real Pub Favourites' menu with traditional favourites such as fish and chips and homemade curry. It will also offer fantastic value with a 2 for £10 deal on selected dishes, available Monday – Friday. Food is served from midday every day and customers will also find a broad range of Brains beers and a great selection of wines.

New managers Andy and Lynette and their team look forward to welcoming you to the new look Seagull!

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Singers' duet a Facebook hit!

WHEN singer Aubrey Parsons asked audience member Paul Dark to join him on stage for a song at the Celtic Manor recently, no one could have guessed what would happen next.

"It was like something from a film. The entire room just fell silent, all the customers turned and watched with their mouths agape. Even all the staff stopped what they were doing and became engrossed in what was happening on the stage. It was beautiful," said Carly Lewis, waitress at The Celtic Manor.

Aubrey had performed at Paul's pub, The Cornhill in Rhayader earlier in the summer as part of the town carnival: "I know Paul has a great voice, so I asked him up to sing. He was a little reluctant at first but the audience were quite insistent! I asked him if he knew 'The Prayer' and luckily enough he did," said Aubrey.

Another customer filmed the duet on his mobile phone and posted the footage to Facebook. The clip started getting thousands of hits, and the next day both Wales Online and the Daily Mirror ran stories about the performance, which helped make the video go viral.

Owing to the massive amount of interest in the video, Aubrey and Paul have since formed 'Parsons and Dark' and recorded their first single 'The Prayer', which they have self-financed. All proceeds will go to the Wales Kidney Foundation. They are also currently working on their first album together.

"This has all been like a dream come true. We have both been singing separately for years and we are both constantly being told we should try for X-Factor or BGT, but neither of us has ever had any luck with those shows.

"In fact, we are both completely fed up with the TV 'talent show culture'. It seems that unless you have a heart breaking back-story, a truly awful voice, or you are prepared to be squeezed, twisted, shoehorned and moulded into a pop band, then you really don't stand a chance on these shows."

Aubrey added: "So we've decided to join forces and give the world what we think they've been waiting for. Big songs, big voices and big shows!"

WELSH HEARTS RUN IN MEMORY OF RON

MATTHEW SMITH'S dad Ron died in August this year, aged 64, from a heart attack, and his son Jackson (7) and friends and family will be taking part in 'The Great Cardiff Bay Santa and Elf Dash' on Sunday, December 7 in his memory.

It is organised by the Welsh Hearts charity.

Matthew said: "Ron was the greatest and kindest man you could ever meet. He always put other people first and has left a massive gap in all of our lives! He will never be forgotten and he will be so proud that we will be doing this event in memory of him and helping to raise money to help Welsh Hearts buy defibrillators across Wales."

The Santa and Elf Dash is a festive event for all the family to take part in. Registration is £5 each and participants receive a T-shirt, certificate, medal, water and prizes for the best dressed Santa and Elf!

To register, contact the fundraising office on 02920 786521, or register online http://welshhearts.org/santa./

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Dathlwch 12 diwrnod y Nadolig

gyda 12 o gynigion arbennig* gan Hamdden halo

Dydd Llun
1 RHAG
Trefnwch aelodaeth o'r Ystafell Ffyrfhau yng Nghanolfan Bywyd
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr - dim byd i'w dalu tan fis Ionawr

Dydd Mawrth
2 RHAG
20% oddi ar nwyddau Halo - bagiau ymarfer corff, poteli dw'r, tywelion chwys, ffotisau allweddi

Dydd Mercher
3 RHAG
Taleb Rhodd Halo £20 am £15 - arbedwch £5

Dydd Iau
4 RHAG
Trefnwch driniaeth harddwch yn y salon yng Nghanolfan Bywyd
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr - 25% oddi ar y pris

Dydd Gwener
5 RHAG
Taleb nofio am ddim pan fyddwch yn prynu unrhyw gynnych nofio Zaggs

Dydd Sadwrn
6 RHAG
Prynwch aelodaeth flynyddol - 13 mis am bris 10!

Dydd Sul
7 RHAG
£10 oddi ar bris trefnu parti pen-blwydd Halo

Dydd Llun
8 RHAG
Mins-pei am ddim pan fyddwch yn prynu diod boeth yn y caffi newydd yng Nghanolfan Bywyd
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Dydd Mawrth
9 RHAG
Mynediad hanner pris i chwarae meddal dan do JumpINGym yng Nghanolfan Bywyd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Dydd Mercher
10 RHAG
Trefnwch eich sesiwn am ddim ar Halo Heights, y wal ddringo dan do yng Nghanolfan Bywyd
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Dydd Iau
11 RHAG
Trefnwch ddosbarth ymarfer corff mewn grw'p am ddim

Dydd Gwener
12 RHAG
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Dim byd i'w dalu tan fis Ionawr*

Gallwch ddefnyddio'r holl gyfleusterau ar unwaith a chewch botel ddw'r a thywel chwys Halo AM DDIM

Mae'r cynigion ar gael ar y dyddiad a nodwyd yn unig. Rhaid i archebion/taliadau gael eu gwneud ar y diwrnod i sicrhau diogwnt/cynnig - y gellir ei adennill ar ddyddiad diweddarach, gweler www.haloleisure.org.uk/12days am fanylion. **Yn agored i aelodau Halo a'r rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau.** *Telerau ac amodau yn gymwys yn www.haloleisure.org.uk/12days

Siaradwch â Chynghorydd Cwsmeriaid yn eich canolfan leol ar **0300 012 1223** neu ewch i **www.haloleisure.org.uk**

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Celebrate 12 days of Christmas

with 12 special offers* from halo® Leisure

Mon 1 DEC
Take out a Toning Suite membership at Bridgend Life Centre - pay nothing until January

Tues 2 DEC
20% off Halo merchandise - workout bags, water bottles, sweat towels, key fobs

Wed 3 DEC
£20 Halo Gift voucher for £15 - save £5

Thurs 4 DEC
Book a beauty treatment at the salon at Bridgend Life Centre - 25% off

Fri 5 DEC
Free swim voucher when you buy any Zoggs swimming product

Sat 6 DEC
Buy an annual membership - 13 months for the price of 10!

Sun 7 DEC
£10 off a Halo birthday party booking

Mon 8 DEC
FREE mince pie when you buy a hot drink at the new cafe at Bridgend Life Centre

Tues 9 DEC
Half price admission to JumpINGym indoor soft play at Bridgend Life Centre

Wed 10 DEC
Book your free session on Halo Heights, the indoor climbing wall at Bridgend Life Centre

Thurs 11 DEC
Book a free group exercise class

Fri 12 DEC
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CHILDREN'S MEMORABLE WAR LESSON

WITH the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1 being remembered this year, the residents of St Mary Church decided to do this in a very special way.

The church was the venue for a touching display. Many families in the village contributed extremely sentimental, precious items for people to come and see. Year-4 children from Llanfair Primary School were invited to the church to see for themselves the reminders of the War.

Mr Jim Teague was on hand to show the children the items displayed. The children learned not only what it was like to be British during that time, but they also had an insight into what it would've been like to have been German as well as Austrian.

The children got to see for themselves many items, including photographs, artillery shells and many medals including an Iron Cross.

Mr Geoff Simpson sat with the children to show them his wonderful collection of postcards, each one hand embroidered by French and Belgian ladies and then sold to soldiers wanting to send their love to their family back home. Each postcard was sent by his grandfather to each of his nine daughters.

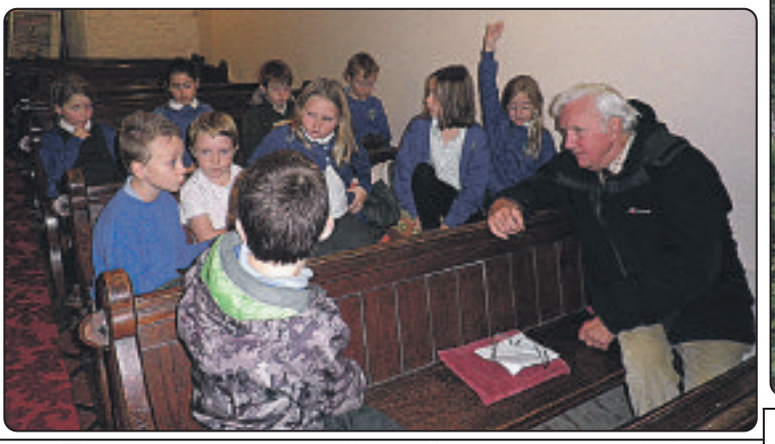
Finally, the children had the opportunity to listen to Mr John Casey, who shared with them accounts of what it would've been like for soldiers fighting on the ground, as well as at sea.

The children were completely engrossed and took the opportunity to share their own family stories that had been handed down to them.

With time running out, it was with disappointment the children had to leave; however, they had one more job to do on their way back to school. They were given bags of 'Flanders' poppy seeds and asked to scatter them along the side of the footpath on their journey back.

A very fitting end to an extremely touching visit and a wonderful opportunity. The chatter and enthusiasm about what they had experienced continued for quite some time after.

Lianne Young



Pupils celebrate 20 years of 'eco' schools

THURSDAY, November 13 was a busy and muddy afternoon at St Athan Primary School.

To celebrate 20 years of 'eco' schools the school's eco committee and parent-governor Mrs Lynch-Wilson, and vice chair of the governing body Mr Brian Acott, under the shadow of their second green flag, buried a time capsule in the school grounds.

This is to be dug up again on November 13, 2034. The capsule was placed by Mr Acott in the school's area for butterflies and pollinators and the spot clearly marked with a solid stone bird bath.

A plaque will be placed later in the term.

The time capsule contains items chosen by the pupils to best represent our school and village life at St Athan today.

All eco members involved were very enthusiastic and excited at the concept of their hard work being dug up one day by other children, maybe even children of their own!

WR

Interact join forces with Llantwit Major Rotary

Llantwit Major Rotary president Mary Noyes with members of the Llantwit Major Interact Club – (left to right): Connor Clarke, Megan Gee, Rhys Bugler, Hugo Billington, Rotary President Mary Noyes, Interact President Hannah James, Milly Connor, Sharron Davies and Maddy Waters.

A GROUP from the Interact Club of Llantwit Major, based in the local comprehensive school, last week visited the town's Rotary Club for a joint meeting at the West House Hotel.

The Interact members, led by their president, Hannah James, were welcomed to the Rotary meeting by Rotary president Mrs Mary Noyes, who said that her club was very proud of the great success of the local Interact club and continued to watch its progress with great interest.

The club meets every Wednesday morning in school time and currently has 40 members in years 12 and 13, making it the largest such club in Wales and among the largest in Britain.

Mrs Noyes said she was also grateful for the enthusiastic support of Interact members and the school's headteacher, Dr Vince Brown.

Hannah James thanked Llantwit Major Rotary Club for the invitation and for the weekly support given to Interact by club member, and past district governor, Don Carsley. This year, the main aim of the Interact club was to raise funds for the cancer charity, Macmillan Nurses. They recently held a coffee morning and raised well over £200 in half an hour.

They will also be present this year at the Llantwit Major Christmas fayre, where they will have a stall and will continue to support Macmillan Nurses and other charities. Hannah said that the members were having fun by trying to put something back into the community.

She ended by saying that her members had very much enjoyed their visit, which had given them an insight into the wide ranging activities of the Rotary organisation. She hoped they would be able to come again.

Lucy (17) flies flag in music competition

SINGER-SONGWRITER Lucy Tregidon from Llantwit Major, is one of 14 acts chosen for The Big Music Project competition regional final in Cardiff.

It gives young musicians a chance to learn first-hand from the music business.

Lucy (17) will perform at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama on November 24 for industry professionals, who will select the most talented artists from more than 100 acts across the whole of the UK.

Along with the other finalists, she will be vying for a spot in the national final in London during BRITs Week in 2015, in the lead-up to one of the biggest nights in the music industry's calendar, The BRIT Awards.

The successful young people, aged 14 to 24, will be competing for top prizes including the opportunity to record at the world-famous Abbey Road Studios, perform at Classic FM Live at the Royal Albert Hall, and be featured on the BRIT Awards compilation album 2016.

Lucy said: "Being selected for the semi-final of The Big Music Project is a massive achievement for me, and I'm excited to receive personal feedback on my music from professionals. It's a fantastic opportunity!"

A FESTIVE LOOK AT
HOLTON ROAD

Local shopping makes sense in so many ways

RIGHT: N & M Frangoulis is a great family business that has served the Barry public since 1950.

THERE'S a strong emphasis on local shopping now for very practical reasons...travelling a long way to big city centres means more time and extra costs.

Even retail parks have major frustrations, with choked car parks and long queues at the check -outs.

Barry is now better served for parking with a multi-storey car park, a carpark behind the libary and one in Thompson Street.

There are also parking bays dotted around local streets. It means people can park near the business they want – and then browse other local shops.

Many of them are family concerns like N & M Frangoulis on Thompson Street.

Being the oldest established family-owned shoe repair business in Barry it has seen a lot of changes.

When it opened in 1950 the original owner George Frangoulis soon had a reputation of taking on the most challenging shoe repairs, and making the very best 'made to measure' hand-made shoes.

The legacy continued when Nick Frangoulis took over, maintaining the high standards and expanding his services.

Nick told The GEM: "Key cutting was introduced in the early 70s which has developed and grown over the years and we are now of one of the largest key stockists, including the cutting and programming of chipped car keys.

"As well as making shoes, Frangoulis stocks the very best in British made quality shoes with brands such as Barkers, Cheaney, Padders, Trickers, to name but a few.

"We also stock a variety of high quality leather goods – including wallets, purses, passport and travel card holders.

"In recent times computerised engraving has been introduced to personalise gifts as well as stocking a range of awards trophies and Cups – together with a large range of genuine Zippo lighters which can be engraved. Other products include watch batteries, watch straps and dancewear."

*One of the town's most popular shops is **Pets R Us** on Regent Street. It's the go-to place for all your animal 'needs and feeds' whether dogs, cats or smaller animals.*

It's run by Steve Lane. He and the staff are trusted because they all have specialist knowledge in the products they sell.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

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HAVE A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
ENJOY FREE EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

LIGHT UP THE SQUARE
KING SQUARE, BARRY
Saturday 29th November
12 noon to 5pm

Enjoy live music from All That Jazz, The Bucket Band and Wonderbrass along with the festive street entertainers. Join street artists Urban Canvas as they draw a beautiful Christmas Garland on the Square in pavement chalks and pastels.

Also... new for 2014, see the Town Hall come to life with a spectacular 3D Christmas projection display, which will take place just before the Christmas Light countdown.

The Christmas lights on the Square and on the Christmas tree will be switched on at 5pm.

LET IT SNOW
CENTRAL PARK, BARRY
Saturday 13th December
10am to 4pm

For one day only Santa and his reindeer will be coming to town!

The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, festive live music, street entertainers and Christmas play workshops and watch as artist Jon Hicks creates original and seasonal 6ft tall paintings of Santa and snowy landscapes.

CHRISTMAS MARKET
KING SQUARE, BARRY
Saturday 13th December
10am to 4pm

Barry is hosting its first Christmas Market on King Square.

Get yourself in the festive spirit and purchase some unique arts and crafts from local producers.

For further details on all events please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com or follow @visitthevale

A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

Kath and Sue of Fountains Tea Room, provide a warm welcome for customers.

GIFTS GALORE AT CHRISTMAS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

The business runs a dog-grooming service, sells all the top specialist dog foods, and has a range of Christmas toys, treats and coats.

On the corner of Regent Street and Holton Road, is La Cucina – a favourite place for people meeting up with friends.

For shoppers wanting a moment to rest weary feet, local office workers out for a lunch break or friends just meeting friends, it is the ideal place to have a meal, snack or coffee.

Ferda, the owner, explained: "We provide a relaxed, friendly, welcoming atmosphere for people.

"They appreciate the fact that we are a business here for the long term, with roots in the town."

Ferda has always provided quality food at affordable prices.

Ruckleys has everything needed for little ones up to schoolchildren.

Children's meals start at £2.50; there's a 'specials board' with the likes of sweet chili chicken stir fry at £6.25, corn beef pie at £5.95 and home-made sweet and sour chicken at £6.25.

La Cucina offers a huge range of 'hot refreshments' – a bewildering range of coffees and lattes (including ginger bread and chai lattes!) – and 'cold refreshments', milkshakes, organic juices, cokes, and sparkling water.

It also has a huge choice of toasted paninis, and 'special' paninis, sandwiches, breakfasts, bagels, jacket potatoes, salads and hot dishes.

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Ferda added: "I would like to thank all my customers and wish them a very happy Christmas and festive season."

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

DID YOU KNOW THAT 'TECH CITY' IS ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

Gadget repair specialists Greenpoint IT.

TL Computer Systems – and Julie – deal with every sort of computer need whether it's domestic or commercial.

Did you know that Barry has its very own tech city? TL Computer Systems (Wales) Ltd and Greenpoint IT are based at 40 Holton Road and 18 Holton Road respectively.

At this time of year lots of people are thinking of buying games consoles, laptops, mobile phones and the like as Christmas presents – these guys have all the help, advice and backup you could need.

Dave Elliott of TL Computer Systems set up the company in his home in 1996 and they moved to Holton Road in 2000. The company is undergoing a complete refit which should be complete in the next few days.

Dave explained: "We deal with every computer need – both domestic and commercial. We do sales, service and support."

Do you want a computer for your home or business? Are you into gaming, art or music? Dave and the team will tailor hardware to your specific needs and will provide backup too. "Most people have an idea of the budget they want to work to and we can source the kit on that figure."

The team can supply the parts for people to build their own computers, or decide on the specification with customers and construct it for the customer to take home and plug in.

Once your computer is installed, you can even get technical support remotely. TL Computer Systems also deals in top name brands.

A few doors away, at 18 Holton Road, is Greenpoint IT – the gadget repair specialists. The company is run by Kris Price. "We've been here for just over a month, having moved from Cardiff Road where we were from 2007.

"We repair laptops, PCs, iPads, iPods, mobile phones and games consoles. All people have to do is give us a ring and we can give them a quote for the work. People can either drop the gadget in or request a collection.

"Once we've had time to look at the item we'll call the customer to confirm the cost and timescale of the repair. As soon as it's ready we'll call to let the customer know they can collect it or arrange a delivery. We also have a selection of refurbished lapstops and tablets that people can choose from.

"We've got phone and tablet cases that make ideal Christmas presents too," Kris added.

He and the team also offer IT training and business support. Pick ups and dropping off are possible throughout the Vale area

ABOVE: Wendy, Danielle and the staff at Pets R Us have great advice for all local animal lovers.

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A FESTIVE LOOK AT
HOLTON ROAD

For top advice on music and musical instruments make a trip to JPL Sound – the Barry Music Shop

JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop has developed a reputation for honest, straightforward advice on musical instruments and equipment.

Many people want to buy a young family member a musical instrument as a Christmas gift and are tempted to purchase over the internet.

But that can cause complications when the instrument arrives and is not set up correctly. What then? Internet companies by their very nature are more distant, and the chances of speaking directly to someone to sort out a problem are remote.

Why go through all that when John and his staff can give all the expert advice needed face to face, order the item, and check everything is in good working order when it arrives.

It means there are no big Christmas Day dramas and disappointments.

The shop always has festive offers and provides excellent service because it thrives on repeat business.

JPL Sound – The Barry Music Shop is famed not just in Barry but throughout south Wales for the numerous events it supports with its sound systems, including the annual Rotary Fireworks Fiesta.

John and Sam of JPL Sound The Barry Music Shop offer the best advice on all things musical.

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Sudden death prompts probe

POLICE have confirmed that they are investigating the sudden death of a man at Southerndown on Monday.

Mr Peter Coles, aged 76, from the Litchard area of Bridgend, died around 4pm on that day and an investigation has been launched on behalf of the coroner. However, the incident is not being treated as suspicious and next of kin have been informed.

Local choir draws in 18 new voices!

Participants in the latest taster session with MD Dot Connell.

THE waves made by Barry Male Voice Choir's recent recruitment campaign have created a swell of interest in the area and the taster evening held at the West End Social Club attracted 20 potential new members.

Men from Barry, Rhoose, Dinas Powys, Wenvoe, Penarth and Llantwit Major attended.

Musical director Dorothy Connell, accompanied by Emma Arscott, led the guests through a varied programme of songs, as an introduction to male voice singing.

The stirring sounds of the combined voices of choristers and guests singing in near harmony was enjoyed by all and hopefully suggests that the choir can soon expect a number of new members. At a follow-up session, 18 potential choristers took part.

Choir president Gordon Mudford said: "Barry Male Voice Choir enriches the lives of many. I hope that the choir recruitment campaign has safeguarded the future of the choir and will allow the 112-year legacy of our predecessors to continue.

"The choir is committed to entertaining and supporting the organisations and charities of Barry and rest of the Vale. Over the years, we have raised thousands of pounds for good causes.

"We shall continue to do this. Our engaging and colourful recruiting campaign was made possible by the generous support of the Barry Town Council."

It's not too late for any men interested in joining. Just turn up at our taster sessions on Mondays at 6.30 til 7.15pm in Trinity Hall, Barry (lower floor side entrance) or at the choir rehearsals at the same venue on Mondays or Thursdays, 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Email: www.barrymalevoicechoir.co.uk.

Gareth Jones

Villagers claim abolition of settlement boundaries is 'contradictory' measure

A GROUP of villagers has written an open letter to the leader of the Vale council, claiming it is 'contradictory' that settlement boundaries are being abolished locally.

The correspondents live in St Nicholas, Ystradowen, Bonvilston, East Aberthaw, St Athan, Llanblethian and Wick.

In the letter they say: ***"We understand that The Vale Council has grave reservations about the prospect of a merger with Cardiff Council in the forthcoming reorganisation of local government in Wales.***

"In the press last month it was reported that a key reason why the Vale Council would prefer an amalgamation with Bridgend Council is that it would ensure that the rural characteristics of both the Vale and Bridgend are 'protected and enhanced for the benefit of the wider region'.

"Clearly many will welcome this emphasis given the widespread apprehension that if the Vale is absorbed into a greater Cardiff local authority, then over the next few decades the rural Vale could be subjected to excessive development in order to ease the acute shortage of building land within Cardiff.

"Given the Vale Council's position on the importance of preserving the outstanding scenic quality of our Vale rural areas, we find it anomalous that the Vale Council has proposed in its Deposit LDP to abolish the settlement boundaries around 24 villages in the Vale, particularly since Bridgend Council has kept settlement boundaries around its villages in its adopted LDP."

It has recently been announced that the Vale and Bridgend borough councils are currently considering a merger.

Tourism ambassadors go on a tour of the Vale

ON November 14 a group of participants from the Vale of Glamorgan tourism ambassador training programme departed Cowbridge on a familiarisation tour of the Vale.

As we travelled to our first destination we were delighted that the stormy weather of the past few days had given way to a day of warm autumnal sunshine.

Having enjoyed an interesting guided tour of the National Trust-run Dyffryn House and garden, our next visit was to Dr Salmon's Wells at Penllyn: here we were introduced to the history of the well, in days before piped water was introduced to the community.

Highlight of our afternoon was a visit to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, where, in the company of a Heritage Coast ranger, we explored the attractions of Dunraven Estate, and enjoying scenic views of the spectacular cliffs and beach as we looked eastwards towards Nash Point.

With the tide departing, there was time for some beachcombing as the sun started to set. Ewenny Priory was our final destination of the day for a few moments of quiet reflection before setting off on our homeward journey.

Those who took part would like to thank Angharad Wynne and Branwen Dickson from Creative Rural Communities (Cowbridge) for organising the event. The National Trust, Glamorgan Heritage Coast Rangers, and Ewenny Priory for the welcome we received. Cresta Coaches and 'Cowbridge and Beyond' coach Tourism Project for arranging transportation.

Ian Thomas, Cardiff
(Vale Tourism Ambassador).

Lunch recital

THE autumn season of lunchtime recitals at All Saints Church comes to a close next Monday, November 24 when the final concert features conductor, opera coach and pianist Anthony Negus.

Anthony will be presenting a programme of music including pieces by Bach, Schubert, Mozart and Brahms at 1pm.

ROTARY DISTRICT 1150 GOVERNOR IS SPECIAL GUEST AT BARRY CLUB

ROTARY'S district 1150 governor, Mrs Sandra Townsend from Porthcawl, was the special guest at the Rotary Club of Barry's dinner meeting on November 13 at the Glenbrook Inn.

She spoke on the many projects Rotary are engaged in locally, nationally and internationally.

Paul Harris in 1905 had founded the Rotary movement, whose motto is *'Service above Self'*, encouraging all Rotarians to encourage people – men and women – to join Rotary to continue the good work and enjoy the fellowship that is such an important part of membership.

Barry Rotary Club's president Robin Pitcher thanked district governor Sandra for an interesting talk; part of a very busy autumn for the Barry club which earlier in the month organised the 41st annual fireworks fiesta on Barry Island soon after a successful international lunch in October, organised with the Inner Wheel Club of Barry.

Plans are now well in hand to have stalls in High Street, Barry when the Christmas lights are switched on at the end of November and to have another stall at the Dickensian evening in Dinas Powys in December.

Members will also be visiting Orchard House with Inner Wheel to hold a Christmas evening for the residents.

The Rotary Club of Barry also continues to support the Vale Foodbank with monthly donations of food and with the collecting of food at Tesco, Barry.

The club meets in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays (6pm for 6.30pm).

Contact Peter Battle on 01446 710204 or look online at www.ribi.org for further details.

Rotarian Ann Harrhy, president Robin Pitcher, district governor Sandra Townsend and Rotarian Jill Osborne.

Galaxy of stars in panto!

SPARKLING glass slippers, a pair of Ugly Sisters, a handsome Prince and the most popular rags-to-riches story of all time can mean only one thing – the magical pantomime *Cinderella*.

A galaxy of stars are bringing panto magic to Cardiff's New Theatre.

Any Dream Will Do winner and *Casualty* star Lee Mead will lead the cast in the role of Prince Charming.

Joining Lee is Linda Lusardi as The Fairy Godmother, Sam Kane and Mike Doyle as The Ugly Sisters, comedian Andy Jones plays Buttons and Wales' own sporting hero, Gareth Thomas takes on the role of Dandini.

Linda's many stage roles include *Funny Peculiar*, *Bedside Manner*, *Not Now Darling*, *Pygmalion* and *Rock with Laughter*; as well as countless television programmes.

Comedian and funny man Andy Jones will play the pantomime's unsung hero Buttons and *Cinderella* marks his seventh New Theatre panto appearance.

Gareth Thomas, known as 'Alfie' owing to his resemblance to a cartoon character called Alf, was the first Welsh player to reach 100 caps and is one of the most iconic and respected figures in world sport, being voted BBC Wales Sports Personality of the Year in 2005.

Jonathan Kiley, executive producer of *Cinderella* said: "This brand-new production is set to be the most spectacular Cardiff has ever seen."

Cinderella runs at the New Theatre from Saturday December 13 to Sunday, January 18. Tickets start from £10.50 with offers available for families and others. They can be booked on 029 2087 8889 or online at www.newtheatrecardiff.co.uk

No excuse for Welsh NHS to ignore cancer drugs fund requests SAYS AM

WHEN Welsh Health Minister Mark Drakeford rejected the 100,000 strong petition calling for a cancer drugs fund in a debate at the Senedd recently, he claimed that such a policy was not "popular with patients".

I challenge him to provide the evidence on which this extraordinary statement was based.

Have we had petitions coming to the Assembly demanding that the Welsh Government does not set up a fund? Do you hear people at bus stops arguing that cancer victims should not have access to the same drugs that people in England get for free?

Do people really think it's right for cancer victims to spend their life savings just to stay alive?

The answer to all these questions is a resounding 'No'. And that's not my view – it's backed up not only by those people from across Wales who signed the petition, but also the many others who have supported the fundraising efforts of cancer sufferers like Beth Margetson of Porthcawl, who have had to pay for their own treatment.

The truth is that Labour Ministers are totally out of touch with what people in Wales want. Their earlier funding cuts of £800m to the Welsh NHS are responsible for the chaos and havoc into which parts of the service are descending despite the hard work of doctors and nurses.

And let's be clear. It's not that the government cannot afford a cancer drugs fund. They spent £8m last year refurbishing the offices of ministers – enough to finance such a fund for two years. No, it's being refused on ideological grounds – because the fund in England was actually the idea of Prime Minister David Cameron.

Is Labour in Wales so bigoted that they would condemn cancer sufferers to an early death just because they will not adopt what appears to be a good idea from a party they dislike? The answer would appear to be yes.

I am sure cancer sufferers and their families do not give a stuff who first came up with this idea. The SNP-run government in Scotland has set up their own fund to pay for new medicines and in Northern Ireland, the government has decided in principle that such a fund would be a good idea and is now looking for ways to pay for it.

It is only in Wales, run by an ideology-driven, old Labour government, that this fund has been rejected out of hand.

I say to Labour – ditch the dogma because it is costing lives and start tackling the real concerns of people in Wales about the way their health services are being run.

Byron Davies,
Welsh Conservative Regional AM.

CATCH UP CLUB

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First is running a Catch Up Club for children aged 10 – 13 years old in the town.

It will be a place to meet friends, catch up on homework, use computers or to take part in fun activities such as games, arts and crafts during term time every Tuesday at The People Centre, Dunlin Court at 3.30pm – 5.30pm; and every Thursday at Parkside Christian Centre, St Brides Way, 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

Contact 01446 709432 or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

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Cumberbatch cracks code and Turing in 'The Imitation Game'

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

HAVING established himself with well-received roles in the likes of *Atonement* and portraying Stephen Hawking in 2004's *Hawking*, Benedict Cumberbatch's star has firmly moved into the ascendance, giving the second best 21st century iteration of Sherlock Holmes, and taking the step up into the big leagues in the likes of the *The Hobbit* trilogy and playing (spoiler alert) Khan in last year's *Star Trek: Into Darkness*.

Cumberbatch's latest role sees him portray Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*, the man who, along with a group of fellow intellectuals, was involved in cracking the Enigma code at Bletchley Park during World War Two.

The film covers three periods of his life – his teenage years at boarding school, his work on the code-breaking machine and the aftermath of the war that saw him convicted for being a homosexual...

About 10 minutes into *The Imitation Game*, you get a slight sense of deja vu; Benedict Cumberbatch is playing the smartest man in the room, a man whose social skills leave plenty to be desired and isn't afraid of offending in order to get what he wants – so far, so Sherlock. However, come the closing credits, you find yourself as far removed from the great detective as you could be, the central performance by Cumberbatch layered and intriguing, cold yet human; it may very well be his best performance yet.

The story of the Enigma code-breakers was last told on screen in 2001's rather lamentable *Enigma*, a film that tried to make an action blockbuster out of the rural surroundings of Milton Keynes; *The Imitation Game* is a far different beast altogether, focused more on the character of Alan Turing than the code breaking that affirmed his genius.

Directed by *Headhunters'* Morten Tyldum, and based on Andrew Hodges' book (the script coming from Graham Moore), we meet Turing during the years that saw the 'odd duck', as he refers to himself, grow up under oppression from school bullies, to the zenith of breaking the Enigma code, and the decline of a man suffering from oppression of a different, yet oddly similar, sort.

With the plot zigzagging between the three sections of his life, Tyldum manages to maintain momentum through the story. If he is a little let down by some CGI warfare, what he does do well is bring the same cool, efficient approach that served him so well with *Headhunters*.

The film may have a something of a Sunday night TV movie about it, but Tyldum's direction means it fits the big screen wonderfully well.

Moore's script is zippy, the race-against-time of cracking the code central to the plot, with sharp and witty dialogue that gives the film a wit to go with its dramatic foundations.

It grips from the off, particularly for those not so versed in either the life of Turing or the events at Bletchley Park, and Moore manages to strip back the story to its vital components, yet fill it with richly drawn characters and superb dialogue. His balancing act between the three story strands is impressive, as is his ability to allow the film to serve as both thriller and character study.

It's Cumberbatch's performance that will draw the most plaudits, and while this isn't a case of performance overshadowing the film, it says much that without his central turn you wouldn't be quite so enveloped.

Turing's intelligence left him feeling distant from those around him and Cumberbatch manages not only to portray his great intelligence, but also hint at the hurt that is masked by his genius.

For a man so enthralled by the concept of computers there is something of the automaton about Cumberbatch's Turing, feeling and emotion masked by logic.

As an actor who has nary put a foot wrong thus far in his high-profile outings, this easily marks Cumberbatch's most impressive turn yet.

Around him, Keira Knightley offers a pleasing support, and if her character doesn't wholly convince, the performance makes up for it; while the likes of the underrated Matthew Goode, Charles Dance, Rory Kinnear and Mark Strong all bring a stiff upper lip.

Come the saddening denouement, you're left with a selective overview of a man's life that some may feel doesn't paint the complete picture; however, the narrative choices made by Moore and Tyldum pay dividends as *The Imitation Game* packs quite the punch.

VERDICT: A superb look at a complicated, repressed genius, *The Imitation Game* is an engrossing film that soars, thanks to Benedict Cumberbatch's outstanding lead performance. Graham Moore's script is stripped back but rich with detail and Morten Tyldum's direction impressive, but it's Cumberbatch's performance that rightly steals the show here. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (2011), *A Beautiful Mind* (2001).

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Weight loss regime has changed one local woman's life

ABOVE: Jacklyn before (on left) and after!

A LOCAL woman has praised the weight loss course regime that she says has made her "healthier than she's been for 12 years".

Jacklyn Hartnett signed up for a course with Sculpts Supplements in Barry after years of putting on weight – mainly due to health problems that stoped her exercising.

She said: "I have been physically disabled with spinal damage since 2002, and have had a lung disease since 2012.

"I need to take 48 tablets (including morphine and steroids) but more importantly, I am unable to walk more than 10 metres.

"Exercise and going to the gym is impossible for me. Over the last 12 years, the weight piled on, while I tried every diet going, with zero results.

"In June this year, I weighed a massive 18 stone, 8 lbs, and it was then that I was introduced to Sculpt Supplements.

"I thought it would be another waste of money but, with constant support from the team, I lost weight in that first month.

"With no calorie counting, just sensible healthy eating tips from the team, every time I went on the scales my weight went down. My clothes were starting to hang off me.

"I had never had results like this – and you even get a 'cheat day'.

"Today, I'm healthier than I've been in 12 years, and have gone from a size 24 to a size 16. I now weigh 15 stone 6 lbs.

"If it works for me it could work for you. Thanks to Sculpt Supplements team, I'm getting my life – but more importantly my confidence – back!"

** Seek medical advice before starting a diet/exercise programme.*

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Chris & Doug Hall

"I cannot speak highly enough of the help, attention and personal care Scott has given me and I would highly recommend him to all who have a hearing loss."
Mr J Hall

"I would recommend Scott Wroe Hearing Centre to anyone who is missing quality of life as a result of hearing loss"
David Burr

"I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."
Mrs J Thorpe

Residents scoop eco awards

Eco champion winners Oak Court Gardening Club, of the Vale of Glamorgan with Richard Poole, of category sponsors Contour, and Kathy Smart, chair of the board of WWH.

VALE residents have been recognised for the positive impact they have made on their communities by landlord, Wales & West Housing, at its annual Making a Difference Awards.

Oak Court residents scooped the Eco Champion category and The Buzzy, Buzzy Bees Gardening Club in Hanover Court, Barry were finalists in the same category which was sponsored by Contour Showers.

Oak Court gardening group consists of a few keen gardeners who have only been working together for a short time but already their efforts have made a huge difference to the grounds around their home.

Also nominated for the Eco Champion Award by Sarah Willcox, the Buzzy, Buzzy Bees are a group of residents from Hanover Court retirement scheme in Barry, who have formed a group to grow fruit and vegetables at the scheme to improve their lifestyle through healthy eating.

Buzzy, Buzzy Bees Gardening Club, Vale of Glamorgan with Richard Poole, of Eco Champion category sponsors Contour, and Kathy Smart, chair of the board of WWH.

NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

Beware of the Drone-laying Queen!

AUTUMN is here for sure, the varied conditions are bringing about a slow-down within the colonies, but the bees are still getting out and about foraging.

The Queens are still laying, which means new bees hatching out and the dynamics of the hives are still changing. Although I have carried out Varroa mite control, this continued Queen laying can only lead to more mites developing and I will have to look to revising my treatment schedule.

Honey supers (boxes) that were taken off and their contents, spun out, were put back onto the hives so that the bees could clean them up. I would then remove them and put them into storage ready for use next year. The bees obligingly cleaned them but have proceeded to fill them with nectar and pollen due to this somewhat unseasonable weather pattern that we are in the grip of.

What shall I do? Well, normal procedure is to remove the Queen excluders, this has been done; each colony would be left with one deep box (brood box) and one shallow box (honey super) containing stores (sealed over honey and pollen). This set-up would be sufficient to carry them through the winter months.

However, I now have several colonies that have two supers and some with three supers on them. Not all of the frames within these supers are quite full yet, but if the mild conditions continue and the bees remain active who know.

I could well be taking honey off come Christmas. An unlikely scenario, I admit, but certainly not impossible.

The activity of the bees and the weather conditions will, of course, be the deciding factors. It has to be recognised that this year for the beekeeper has certainly been different.

Swarms have certainly been a feature this year. This has seen the production of new Queens. These Queens must be mated if they are to fulfil their role as providers of the next generation of bees – many reports are suggesting otherwise.

For whatever reason, many Queens have failed to be mated and this then leaves a colony with a Drone-laying Queen and this spells doom for such a colony.

Workers (females) are a must if a colony is to survive. It is the ladies who do all of the work in a hive. Drones are there to mate with Queens and that is their only function.

At this time of the year, the only thing going to plan is the removal of all Drones; the ladies are removing them from the hive, they are dragged out and not allowed to return inside and, as a consequence, they die of starvation or eventually the cold.

There should be no swarms in the winter, but will we get a winter? Will the ladies let a few Drones survive?

I am listening to the weather reports diligently. The bees, of course, will be the better indicators and they (as always) will know just how to go about things.

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Understanding Disability awards presented

Leo Taylor.Photographs by Tim Dickeson

Joe Brady

THE Understanding Disability Group was celebrating 21 years at an awards ceremony on Tuesday (November 18) at the Future Inn Hotel in Cardiff Bay.

There were seven main award recipients, including Joe Brady from Barry, who received an award in the children's category for supporting and welcoming an autistic young boy into their home for two nights a month.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Coun Margaret Jones and Deputy Lord Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Fred Johnson, presented awards and Maria Battle, Chair of the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board spoke on the Learning Disability services with the health board.

Volunteers sought for Operation Christmas Child

A REQUEST has been made to The GEM for volunteers to assist with the checking of shoeboxes in connection with this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign.

The warehouse being used this year is Unit 39C on the Vale Business Park at Llandow, Cowbridge CF71 7PF. Those interested in helping are asked to turn up at the warehouse where Mr and Mrs Ted Bird, Mr and Mrs Roy Hibbert and Mrs Leanne Popham are heading up the operation.

Last year, over 25,000 boxes were collected in south Wales and sent off to children in a number of east European countries. This year, the shoeboxes collected in the south Wales region will be sent to children in Zambia and, hopefully, last year's figure will be exceeded.

For a small donation supplies of ready wrapped empty boxes are available at the warehouse open from 10am until 9pm each day.

OPEN SCHOOL IN PENARTH

WESTBOURNE School, Penarth is opening its doors to the public today (Thursday, November 20) between 4pm and 6pm.

Cardiff flights boost to Norway

UK AIRLINE, Eastern Airways has signed a new codeshare agreement with Wideroe, which will also provide Cardiff Airport travellers with greater Norwegian connections via Aberdeen, along with improved access to the Norwegian carrier's comprehensive network of Scandinavian destinations.

The codeshare partnership and ticketing agreement will enable Eastern Airways to offer connections from Cardiff to Stavanger and Bergen via Aberdeen. Passengers' hold baggage will be checked in at Cardiff and collected at their end destination, a spokesperson said.

The 'Big Wrap' holds quiz for a big Christmas

CHARITY organisation The Big Wrap will be hosting a Big Quiz to help support disadvantaged children and young people across south Wales this Christmas.

The quiz will be held at the Ship Hotel on Harbour Road, Barry, on Tuesday, November 25 at 7.30pm. Teams of four to six people are welcome to compete, and all proceeds will go towards helping give deprived people a helping hand this Christmas.

Last year, thanks to the support of the Vale Council and Cardiff City Football Club and its fans, over 500 children were supported by the Big Wrap scheme.

And this year the charity is looking to help even more people enjoy a generous Christmas.

The Big Wrap is happy to receive toys, which should be new and unwrapped, as well as gift tokens or financial donations.

Donations can be taken to the Vale Civic Offices on Holton Road, Barryup until December 12. They can also be made at the Cardiff City club shop any time until December 12.

Susan Lloyd-Selby, the Big Wrap coordinator, said: "We are delighted to be running the Big Wrap in partnership with the Vale Council and Cardiff City Football Club again this year.

Every present we receive will be given to a child or young person who might otherwise receive nothing or very little for Christmas.

We would like to thank the Council, the team and its supporters in advance. With your help, we can make sure Christmas reaches even more children this year."

Working in partnership with local agencies, the Big Wrap is run by volunteers and relies entirely on donations from local organisations and members of the public.

Presents will be given to children and young people identified by front line care professionals, including social workers, local charities and churches.

For more information on the scheme, or how to get involved, visit www.bigwrap.co.uk.

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When looking at replacement windows and doors, as tempting as it is to focus on the aesthetic design, technology vitally important.

Up to 30 per cent of your home's heat loss can be through the windows, so style must be backed up with substance. To shop smart, it's important to get to grips with Window Energy Ratings (WER).

Similar to the ratings found on home appliances, WER ranges from A (meaning most energy efficient) down to G. UK building regulations stipulate a 'C' rating as the standard window rating expected in modern homes.

With windows and doors, as in many areas of life, technology moves on quickly. Just five years ago doors and windows were installed that today would not achieve a C rating. In fact, a window or door installed five years ago could be around 30 per cent less efficient than one installed today.

Opting for A rated windows will minimise your carbon footprint and reduce your energy bills meaning a better return on your home improvement investment. And for the ultimate future proofing, the Ambient Window can achieve an A+ rating.

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- Reduced condensation: Energy-efficient glazing reduces condensation build-up on the inside of windows.

Llantwit Major at Christmas

Impressive coastal town has the Christmas spirit all year round!

LLANTWIT IS NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE...

A LOOK INSIDE LLANTWIT MAJOR BY CAROLINE SARLL

POSTCARD-PRETTY and postcode-proud (recently dubbed the second best place to live in Wales), Llantwit Major provides the perfect blend of residential, retail and rustic charm.

If you can't face the pre-Christmas clamour and blatant big-city consumerism, fancying something other than chainstore fodder, the plethora of quirky and quaint shops offer unusual gifts galore.

And more. The third largest town in the Vale, after Barry and Penarth, Llanilltud Fawr (its Welsh name) is host to a bundle of boasts. Once described as the 'Oxbridge of post-Roman Britain', it is believed, for one, to be Britain's earliest centre of learning.

The Celtic monastery and college of Cor Tewdws, established c395, on the site of St Illtud's Church ("the most beautiful church in Wales" according to John Wesley), was reopened in the 6th century by the Welsh monk Illtud (after whom the town is named), eventually attracting almost 2,000 pupils, including such luminaries as St David and St Patrick. Bet you didn't know that.

Vying with Cowbridge in the noteworthy names tally, neighbouring St Donat's Castle, under the ownership of William Randolph Hearst, also attracted many celebrities to the media mogul's lavish society parties: Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable, Bob Hope and John F Kennedy amongst them.

Describing the castle, George Bernard Shaw observed: "This is what God would have built, if he had had the money".

Around Llantwit there is also the rugged, cliff-edged beach, blue plaques aplenty, a revamped Co-op (Truly Irresistible) and, last but not least, for a good old personal endorsement – my sister chose to live there.

An arbiter of good taste (her house once featured in *Traditional Homes* magazine!) and a real Llantwit lover – you can't get a better thumbs up than that.

So for me, a Christmas trip to Llantwit Major is a must: a See-Sis-Retail-Bliss combo.

Perfect!

I started this year's festive browse in the recently relaunched Co-op, drawn to it by the waft of bagels and buns from the newly enhanced bakery section (and the promise of a truly irresistible complimentary carrot cake).

Guided round the bright, balloon-festooned store, with its neatly-stacked, brightly-lit, energy-saving cabinets (extending their chilled produce), by managers Robert Sperduty and Andrew Jenkins, the £400,000 refit, with its 'cosier' lower ceiling and 'fair and square' marketing, was clearly a crowd magnet, fully embracing the area's strong community spirit – in evidence in all the businesses I visited.

The Co-op's Sharon Boult, a Community Pioneer at the store, will be working even more closely with local charities and other organisations, offering both financial and pastoral support.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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Llantwit Major at Christmas

On the doorstep, yet so much to offer...

Stuart Sloan and Becki Croney from Sloan & Co.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

Sharon says: "The Co-op is membership-owned and we remain focused on giving as much back to the community as possible."

Robert said: "We are delighted with this significant investment in Llantwit Major".

As well as encouraging charity bag-packing and other in-store fundraising ventures for local groups, Sharon will also go out to help, visiting local schools and other organisations.

The reorganised store got the thumbs-up from shoppers: "I'm in here almost daily," said Helen Brown, who works in Eryl surgery.

"I prefer to shop locally. It's handy and convenient and this refit seems to include a wider selection. It's very inviting."

Annie Durrant agreed: "I live in Boverton, so always come here. Everyone is very friendly and it stocks most of the things I need."

Almost licking the cake-festooned cover of the instore mag on the way out, I intend making its Veggie blue cheese, chestnut and pear tarts and Christmas pud ice-cream for our festive feast. Mmmmm. So "good with fud" (Scottish accent, please). Loved By Us, indeed.

Anticipating the need for a crocheted Christmas kaftan to cover such calorific, scrumptious indulgence, I then waddled to the warm and welcoming Sewing Box, which was hosting its cosy Thursday Knit and Natter group.

Free tea, a good old gossip and gorgeous woolly garments galore. What more could you want?

Owner Stephen Segal and his wife Lynette Warren are celebrating their second year of being in this prime location and are unequivocal about their tailor-made (ouch) recipe for success: "We are competitively priced and have a wide range of wools and curtains to suit all tastes and budgets," says Stephen.

"Lynette and I have a passion for colour and texture and stock prestigious names such as Sanderson, William Morris and Bellfield.

"We also offer a free measuring and curtain-hanging service, seeing all sales through from start to finish. I hate to sound X-factor-ish, but it's nice to be on the customers' 'journey' with them! It's that personal touch which makes customers keep coming back, rather than travelling into Cardiff."

That and a thriving alterations service, vital in our current economic climate, which is seeing more and more people return to the make-do-and-mend mentality. The shop also supports local charity Atal Y Fro (which aims to combat domestic abuse) and regular knit and natterers Trisha, Denise, Dee and Cathy have made umpteen baby hats and jackets to raise funds and awareness.

"We'll be having a special mulled wine gathering in the run-up to Christmas and making even more baby items," says Lynette. The new Pitter-Patter club, you could say. Sew appealing...

Creativity is in abundance in the town. Mariette's, owned by artist Sara Llewellyn, specialises in hand-painted antique furniture, much of which is imported directly from France.

Helen Brown open the newly refurbished Co Op.

Sara painstakingly and expertly upcycles the beautiful vintage pieces in her upstairs studio, skilfully transforming a wide range of items from exquisite dining tables and 19th century walnut chairs to armoires and chests of drawers.

Sara is happy for customers to bring in their own furniture to be custom-painted by her and she also sells a wide range of unpainted pieces. Her rustic benches and tables are stunning, as are the artisan wooden bowls by a local Merthyr Mawr artist, reasonably priced and ideal as Christmas gifts.

"I am more than happy for clients to come and watch me work," says Sara. "This is, after all, a working studio, more than a traditional shop, so customers will generally find me in my painting clothes. I think it's interesting for them to see how the artwork develops.

"I welcome all customers and am also happy to see people by appointment, as this gives customers more time to discuss their requirements in detail. It is enormously gratifying at the end of the process to see them leave with a totally unique piece of furniture."

Sara, who describes her business as "Vintage home and Welsh artisan," also sells exclusive Welsh art and prints, including original paintings by her late mother. The Childhood In Wales series, inspired by her mother's rural upbringing, is really beautiful.

Mariette's is open from 10am to 4pm, or by appointment. Some have described Mariette's as Llantwit's "best kept secret". I think they may be right.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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Llantwit Major at Christmas

The Flower Shop also stocks a range of gifts.

The 'Knit and Natter' group at the Sewing Box.

Variety is the key

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

Brick and click retailing, where businesses combine face-to-face and online sales, is not routine in small towns like Llantwit. But Stuart Sloan, the cheery and utterly charming owner of the fashion Sloan & Co, thrives on this strategy.

Bang in the town centre, his inviting and colour-blocked shopfloor offers a delightful array of sensibly priced, super-stylish separates, including the sassy and figure-flattering Saloos label.

Stuart's expertise ("I've worked in retail all my life") and his sales-savvy approach ("I'm not afraid to say we're like the Aldi of the clothes world – a classy budget boutique!") has ensured him a constant customer base from all over the world (Scandinavia, the States and Dubai) and he repays their loyalty with a discount 'Friends' card – black (clever), to echo the more well-known status credit cards.

A warm welcome awaits at Health Conscious.

This man knows about marketing and can reel off succulent soundbites in consummate – and highly convincing – adman style: "We multi-season (love it) and see ourselves as everyone's Guilty Little Pleasure. Our range is high-end, but affordable, but not so ubiquitous that you'd see someone else wearing your outfit."

Crucial, ladies. Nothing worse than fashion snap at this year's office bash: "We also favour assisted self-service (do NOT make that an acronym), allowing the customers the freedom to choose, but stepping in if they need help. Good customer service is always King".

Spot on, Stuart. We girls can't abide a hard-sell salesperson, but often need a guiding hand (or help getting out of a yes-it-will-fit-me size 8 dress). *Trends for this Christmas, then?*

"Our fab range of Italian multi-coloured coats – a snip at £59.99. And our Christmas jumpers, at £14.99".

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 32)

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

LLANTWIT MAJOR CHRISTMAS EVENT

SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2014

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in columns 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 6th December 2014	**Wine Street**, south of Wesley Street **Church Street**, throughout its length **Church Lane**, throughout its length **College Gardens**, throughout its length **College Street**, throughout its length The un-named lane that runs through the Town Hall car park from its junction with Church Street (next to the Town Hall) in a south westerly direction through the car park to the south eastern boundary of a property known as the Old Bakehouse. **Colhugh Street** from its junctions with **Church Street** for a distance of 40m. in a southerly direction. **Burial Lane**, throughout its length **The Strand**, to the west of Commercial Street	From 2.00pm To 9.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.

Dated this 20th day of November 2014

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
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Llantwit Major at Christmas

Llantwit Major offers a cure for choice fatigue!

LLANTWIT MAJOR, like the other towns in the Vale and Bridgend county borough, scores high on individuality, niche knick-knackery and all-year-round niceties. For me, it also eradicates that most insidious of modern day retail-related ailments: choice fatigue, writes CAROLINE SARLL.

Just how many brands of mince pies and scented candles do you want? Christmas shopping is stressful enough without traipsing up and down a multi-manufacturer mall, wondering whether one make is ten pence cheaper than another.

Small is, indeed, beautiful. But, if you do find yourself getting frazzled and frayed, rest assured that Llantwit (it's okay – the locals drop the Major too) has a healing heart – as demonstrated in many of its businesses.

The delightful Health Conscious, owned by former pharmacist and committed altruist Nicky Foster, is yet another example: "My passion is helping people. Helping them to understand that there are other ways of managing their health and dealing with problems than just with prescription drugs.

"We're all stressed these days and our Western lifestyle and foods are compromising our immune systems. We need to use more natural methods of combating disease and illness".

Nicky offers advice regarding the wealth of supplements and vitamins around. "There's no need to take them all! But most of us have too little magnesium and vitamin D, so those are the ones I'm inclined to recommend".

Nicky is also "very excited" about her Flower Power Organics range – 'artisan skincare', comprising soaps, salves, oils and creams, all produced from herbs and flowers grown in Pembrokeshire and "very useful" in fighting the festive frenzy.

She is also an advocate of Yogi teas and the accompanying recipe book, which can be used in everyday baking.

"Rose blueberry muffins are a favourite of the staff here. You open a rose teabag and add it to the muffin mix. They are scrumptious!"

Other products suitable for Christmas gifts include bars of uncooked Rawr chocolate: "It has more health benefits eaten like this," says Nicky.

Also on offer are hand-picked hampers, giving customers control over both choice and budget. "We'll gift wrap them as well, eliminating that perennial stress".

Utter bliss. On Christmas Eve, stuff sellotape and scissors (not the turkey). Open some bubbly and admire Nicky's cellophane and be-ribboned baskets instead.

Chocolate, muffins and bubbly. Gastronomic Heaven. But combined with all the puds and pies, probably not brilliant for the teeth. Cue Wyndham House Dental Practice, a 21st century all-seasons saviour for our sugar-seeped none-too-saintly sins.

Now in its 13th year, this state-of-the-art service specialises in the burgeoning implant sector. "Our implants are very competitively priced," says practice founder, dentist Simon Hill, "as are all our other treatments, such as tooth whitening and all kinds of cosmetic dentistry".

Implants are becoming more and more popular with patients, offering an aesthetically pleasing alternative to bridges or gummy smiles and gaps. The practice also prides itself on its in-house orthodontic service, enabling the expert, welcoming and reassuring team to provide all-round mouth maintenance to adults and children alike.

Wyndham has come a long way from its humble beginnings, when it opened "as a squat practice, with no patients on our books at all".

But it all went well, with no teething troubles (sorry) and now this informal, friendly practice provides "predictable quality dentistry" and "mouth rehabilitation" with a refreshingly non-clinical approach.

"We take away the fear factor by getting to know all our patients and treating them as people". Simon also provides the St Donat's-style celebrity touch I had not yet uncovered in Llantwit.

"I used to be an international rugby player," he says modestly, omitting to tell me that he won 12 caps for Wales. "I played with the likes of Mike Hall and Nigel Walker and even shared a room with Gareth Thomas on a South African tour".

Simon has also had dinner with the lovely Katherine Jenkins – "in a group, mind, not just the two of us". These days, Simon prefers to combine his dentistry with rugby coaching for Llantwit Major RFC First XV and with such a demanding life, enjoys spending time with his wife and their three children.

The million dollar question – did he survive his rugby years without injury, especially to his teeth? "Not quite. I do have an arthritic knee caused by a torn cruciate ligament. But the teeth, yes. Thanks to good gum shields, they're miraculously all intact".

I put the phone down, then rush to clean and floss my teeth. I can feel myself booking a consultation already.

Value Added Service is in abundance in The Flower Shop, owned by Sarah Thomas and co-run by her lovely mum, Wendy Thomas: "As well as celebratory occasions, we obviously do a lot of arrangements for funerals, so we are dealing regularly with bereaved customers. We pride ourselves on being understanding and allowing people to talk about their loss".

Wendy's warm, smiling face belies a personal background tinged with deep sadness: "My husband died when Sarah was just 9, so we can fully empathise with those who are going through such a devastating experience. I think they open up to us, knowing that we really do understand".

The Flower Shop stocks a wide range of fresh flowers – lisianthus, Kermit crysanths and beautiful roses were on display – all sourced from a leading Welsh supplier, J&E Ltd of Merthyr Tydfil.

This month, they are proud to be celebrating 20 years in business, an occasion they marked quietly with, of course, a stunning bunch of flowers!

Wendy is keen to emphasise the feelgood factor of the floral business: "I love doing the deliveries for occasions like Mother's Day, seeing the mums' faces when they get their beautiful bouquets. We do straddle two worlds here – the happy and the sad. Luckily, the former outweighs the latter".

As well as an array of tailor-made Christmas floral displays, the shop also stocks a wide range of reasonably priced, gorgeous gifts, ranging from seasonal mugs (only £2.99!) to the popular hand-painted, on-trend twig trees, a sign perhaps that – pun permitted – branching out is key to their ongoing success.

I left Wendy feeling pensive, but thoroughly uplifted: a massage for the soul.

There is no shortage of eateries in the town. The old town boasts a bevy of pubs, including the 16th century Old Swan Inn. There are also plenty of cafes and restaurants, offering a wide range of cuisine from traditional Welsh produce to Italian and Indian fayre and all sorts of tempting teashops with delicious cakes and pastries.

It is worth remembering, however, that there is plenty on offer just outside Llantwit, in the many surrounding villages. Lorna Powell and her husband Dean are gearing up for a busy Christmas in their recently refurbished Bar 365 near Llanmaes.

"We reopened on October 17, after a top-to-toe refurb, which took us three months. It looks amazing and we are really pleased with the new look".

Primarily a bar, offering a wide range of drinks and regular live music (Sker Krows on November 29, Underdogs on December 20), Lorna is keen to stress that they will also be offering a good old Sunday lunch. "We're interviewing for chefs at the moment and welcome all applicants."

Once the appointment has been made, Lorna is confident that they will soon be able to offer weekday meals, both at lunchtime and in the evening.

With Llanmaes winning the Vale's Best Kept Village on at least eight occasions, Bar 365 is well worth a visit.

The Plaza Toymaster store is hosting the Scout post service.

Health Conscious has an extensive product range.

Local shopping takes the strain out of Christmas!

Simon Hill and staff at the Wyndham House Dental Practice.

ABOVE: A wide choice of books at Nickleby's.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Regular Sandy Browne, a volunteer at St Illtyd's Primary, snaps one up in her lunchbreak: "It'll be great for assemblies. The pupils will love it – and I love this shop!"

Back home, Stuart mails me with more helpful info, including their free wrap service. Tons of silky tissue paper and shiny red bags, finished, no doubt, with those curly-twirly ribbons, like Bonnie Langford's hair. The eponymous Mr Sloan (fortunate to be minus the "e" of his hapless TV counterpart and London's Eighties' rich-kids) is right on the money in his approach. And then there's maroon.

"Don't forget maroon," he enthuses, as I leave the shop. "It's so stylish". Aah. The magic of maroon. The mellifluous magic of Sloan & Co. Well worth a visit.

A few doors down is another famous-name shop, Nickleby's bookshop. Yet there is nothing Dickensian about this well-stocked store, which carries all the latest titles – David Walliams (*Awful Auntie*), Jeff Kinney (*Diary of A Wimpy Kid*), Gareth Thomas (the autobiographical *Proud*) – and is managing to survive amidst the fierce cut-price superstore competition, due to several factors.

"We've tried to remain just a bookstore. Diversifying is fine and we have diaries and cards, but the books are paramount. And we will go to any lengths – within reason! – to get a book for a customer," says the avuncular, highly knowledgeable John Woods, father of owner Rebecca Lloyd James.

John was once in charge of the libraries for BCBC and feeds this expertise and his natural love of books into his new job.

"One member of staff, Cath, is also an ex-librarian, so we pride ourselves in having the right backgrounds, as well as a heartfelt passion for books and reading. Kindles are great, but you can't beat the smell and texture of a book.

"Our Christmas bestseller is the Llantwit Major series from the local History Society. We have built up a very loyal customer base over the 20-plus years we've been in business and people know that we will always go that extra mile for them."

Astoundingly, that includes offering a customer service which goes way beyond the course of duty and which sets Nickleby's apart: pastoral care.

"We have lots of elderly customers who have been coming here for years. Many of them have mobility issues, so if they can't get out to buy something – any item, not just books – we will offer to go and get it for them. A few years ago, I bought a chicken brick for a 94-year-old customer to cook his Christmas turkey in. He was so grateful. It's the least we can do.

"We treat each and every customer as very important." You can't get better than that. Christmas spirit all year round. Relationship-retailing at its best. Top marks, Llantwit Major.

Finally, as Christmas approaches, there are seasonal activities in the town. The Toymaster Plaza will be hosting Santa and his Reindeer on Saturday, November 29, 11am to 2pm.

Also, on December 6, 2pm to 8pm, the town's Christmas event will offer entertainment in the streets.

Included will be a lantern parade, the switching on of the Christmas lights, a stage, bands, choirs, a Nativity, food, stalls, and entertainment, giving even more reasons to visit Llantwit Major this festive season!

Plaid's light switch-off warning

PLAID CYMRU councillors have repeated concerns over proposals to switch off 70 per cent of Vale of Glamorgan street lights at midnight from next April.

Plaid Cymru councillor Shirley Hodges, leader of Plaid on Barry Town Council, warned that women would feel less safe late at night and that there could be an increase in crime if more than two-thirds of lights are switched off.

The warnings come as figures showed that Wales had suffered an increase in crime during the past year.

Coun Hodges asked whether additional police resources would be made available late at night to protect the public and deal with any problems.

Coun Hodges said: "The proposed street light switch-off will concern many people who have to be out late at night or early in the morning, for whatever reason.

"This will include those who work shifts or have to be in work at all hours, such as hospital staff.

"Although the switch-off will start in the spring and summer when it is light quite early, many people will find themselves going to work in absolute dark during the winter.

"Women, in particular, will feel less safe and more threatened by a street light switch-off."

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Was Ruth Ellis victim of establishment plot?

DINAS POWYS PROBUS CLUB

ON Tuesday, November 11, retired Police Inspector George Brady spoke to the club members, his subject being '*Ruth Ellis, the untold story – victim or villain*?'

After retirement, George became a private investigator and carried out several commissions on behalf of Cardiff solicitor Bernard de Maid.

The Criminal Review Commission permitted the retrospective study of cases where there was a possibility of a miscarriage of justice, and Bernard de Maid asked George to look into the whole situation.

Ruth was born in Rhyl in 1926, to a Belgian mother and an English father, and had a sister who is still alive.

At the age of only 16, she gave birth to a son, the father being a Canadian soldier who deserted her.

She later fell in with Maurice Connelly, who owned a series of illicit drinking clubs in the West End of London.

Her job was to entice men into the club and then encourage them to buy drinks. She also earned extra money by glamour and fashion modelling.

At the age of 23, Ruth married George Ellis, a 41-year-old alcoholic dentist, but the marriage lasted only two years. In 1952, she starred in a film *Lady Godiva Rides Again*, with Joan Collins and Diana Dors.

At the Carrol Club in London, she met and fell in love with David Blakely, an amateur racing driver, public schoolboy and wastrel, the son of a Yorkshire GP who had been acquitted of murdering his wife with a toxic substance.

She supported him and his mechanic with her earnings as a hostess and model.

In April 1955, he went to Le Mans to race, but on his return failed to contact her.

She had suffered a miscarriage two weeks earlier after he had punched her in the stomach, and she had been drinking heavily while he was away.

She found him in The Magdala public house and when he came out to talk to her, she shot him several times with a .38 Smith & Wesson pistol that a man had given her that day.

An off-duty policeman came out of the pub and arrested her. She was questioned by the police, without a solicitor being present, and admitted the killing. The wall of the pub still has two bullet marks.

At the Old Bailey on June 20, she was sentenced to death, having had little said in her defence by the defending counsel, who made no attempt to plead provocation, or post-traumatic stress – moves that in current times, would have probably led to a prison sentence, but not death.

Judge Cecil Havers wrote to the Attorney General asking for clemency, but this was refused. Ruth was hanged on July 13, 1955, the 17th woman to be hanged that century, but also the last.

The continuing controversy surrounding her death is due to the fact that the police made no attempt to look into the background of the murder, and that she did not have a fair and detailed trial.

She was alleged to have chased Blakely around his car firing until the gun was empty, but she was very slight and the gun used is very heavy and would have needed a strong man to hold it with both hands.

She was driven to the pub by the man who supplied the gun, possibly to deliberately cause her to commit a crime which would lead to her death. Was it an establishment plot to prevent her from disclosing the names of prominent persons who made use of her services as a call-girl?

After the trial, all the relevant court papers were removed by court order that they should not be released to public view until 50 years had passed, but this order has now been increased by a further 30 years, which adds to the theory that there is something to hide.

To conclude, George posed the question was she a victim or a villain?

The vote of thanks was given by Ken Wade.

Charles Rees

Airline pulls out?

REPORTS have emerged that German airline Germanwings has pulled out of Cardiff Airport, just seven months after establishing its flagship route to Dusseldorf.

It is the only direct route between Wales' national airport and Germany and was launched earlier this year.

Regional AM Andrew RT Davies said: "It is also deeply concerning that Germanwings has cut its losses so quickly, having only established the route to Germany seven months ago."

Happy 100th birthday Lillian!

LAST Friday, November 14, the Deputy Mayor of Barry Town Council, Coun Rob Curtis, paid a visit to the home of Mrs Lillian Reed, to wish her a happy 100th birthday – and to present her with a bouquet of flowers.

During the visit, Lillian proudly showed off her birthday card from the Queen and Coun Curtis wished her many happy returns from the people of Barry for her very special day.

'Outstanding achievement' praised at Barry Primary

BARRY Island Primary School is the first in the Vale to be awarded the coveted 'double excellent' grade – for current performance and future prospects – by education watchdog Estyn.

The Vale AM Jane Hutt and Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for schools in the Vale, went to talk to pupils in every classroom and the nursery, as well as meeting the School Council, and congratulated the whole school on their outstanding achievement.

They are pictured (above) with pupils and a staff member.

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MMG defeated by the Airport

MMG scored three goals for the fourth game running but lost out to a well-disciplined Cardiff Airport team.

MMG new transfer signing Simon Colston started up front for his first game with a recall for Declan Govier in defence and Scott Nelson in goal.

MMG had a goal kick which Scott unfortunately kicked into the ground, with Jordan Underdown placing the ball into the empty net.

MMG had enforced changes with their usual centre half pairing of Dave Allen and Paul Edwards both missing.

MMG equalised through Drew Burniston after a great bit of interplay with Simon Colston. Elliot Cayton, Leon Butler, Andrew Mason and Morgan Rogers were working hard in midfield but for most of the first half the Airport had the slight edge.

The game ebbed and flowed through the first half before the Airport scored their second again threw Underdown. This followed almost immediately with Drew hitting his second, a stunning free kick.

The second half started much better from MMG and they were for the most part camped in Airport territory. However, Airport always looked dangerous on the break and took the lead against the run of play with a goal scored by Kristian Powell.

They kept the lead until the 80th minute before new boy Simon Colston followed up a great turn and shot by substitute Mike Evans that Kenny Vaughan could only parry in front of him.

With MMG pushing for the winner they got sucker punched again when a pin point cross was dispatched by Luke Jones.

MMG would like to thank their sponsor BRT International for their continued support and for the Cwm Talwg for laying on the food. **LG**

Hannah is world champ!

CARDIFF and Vale College sport student Hannah Harvey has won a gold and two silver medals at the World Kickboxing Championships.

Hannah (17) from Barry, who has been kickboxing since she was five years old, travelled out to the Italian city of Pisa for the championships, where she won gold in the team category and silver in the points and continuous categories.

"I felt very proud," Hannah said.

"I've been to the World Championships and won gold medals before but this was different, and I won in different categories. This year the championships were bigger and there were more people – it was very exciting!"

Hannah has been kickboxing since she "was tiny."

"When I was five I was bullied, and my dad brought me into kickboxing to do something about it."

She enjoys her Level 3 Sport at CAVC: "It's really good – I'm right up to date with all of my assignments," Hannah said. "Last year I did the Level 2 course and wanted to progress: I want to work in a leisure centre in the future and carry on with my kickboxing job on the side."

Olli a rising star of Rugby League Down Under!

FORMER Bridgend schoolboy, Ollie Olds, was named man of the match when Wales faced Ireland in the European Rugby League championship recently.

In his final year at Llangewydd juniors (aged 11) he represented Bridgend and District against Cardiff and District at the Millennium Stadium in the DC Thomas Cup final, which they won.

He played in the Urdd Sevens tournament at Stradey Park which they won, and in the Rosslyn Park sevens tournament over two days which they also won. (He was awarded man-of-the-match in the final).

While still in the first year, he played at the Millennium Stadium as a curtain raiser to the Challenge Cup between Leeds Rhinos v Hull KR. The team beat Castleford High in the English schools Powergen Cup.

Ollie was later selected to play for Wales under-14s Rugby League side at Sheffield in a round robin tournament.

At Brynteg, he was awarded junior/youth rugby player of the month by Rugby World magazine – the youngest player to have won this at 12 years old.

He started playing Rugby League for Bridgend Blue Bulls and was selected for Wales against England at under-16s level. At 17, he was offered a trial with Leeds Rhinos, was then offered a two-year contract, and was selected for Wales under-18s against England, where he kicked the winning point.

Ollie's first senior cap came against France at Wrexham when he was 18.

Ollie was playing for Leeds under-20s when he became dual registered with York City Knights.

After four games, he was recalled by Leeds but an injury kept him out for six months.

The following season, Leeds agreed that he could play for Scorpions in order to get match fit. During this spell, Leeds sent a DVD of all his games to Brisbane Broncos, who within a week paid his air fare and provided an apartment for him.

He was signed up for a Broncos' feeder club Ipswich Jets, on a two-year contract, and last month was selected to play in the European championships for Wales.

He was capped against Scotland, France and Ireland when he again attraced rave notices.

***GEM note:** The question local (and national) Welsh Rugby Union chiefs should be asking is 'how did we let such a talented young player slip through the net?'*

Under-8s take up the footballing mantle

THE Island Marine under-8s are in their second year of playing football in the Vale, having been together for over two and a half years.

The team are coached by Dave Phillips, Mark Frayne and Gavin Price. All three coaches have achieved their team leader award as well as being fully DSB accredited.

The team train on a Tuesday night, throughout the winter at Holm View Leisure Centre. The side would like to thank their sponsors for this season, Champions Lifting and Safety Limited, who sponsor their playing kit and Sebastian and St James – International Financial Advisors LTD, who sponsor their training kit. **NO**

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Who wants to build what, and where in the Vale?

Barratt Homes South Wales – **Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan** – Condition 13 2012/00862/OUT is to be removed in line with Welsh Government legislation changes that have removed the requirement of Code for Sustainable Homes.

Mr Mike Dovey – **Brynderyn Lodge, Peterston Super Ely** – Renewal of planning application 2009/00994/FUL – alterations and extensions.

Mr and Mrs Clode – **Spinney Lodge, Beach Road, Swanbridge** – Construction of dormer style detached dwelling, with integral carport and garden areas.

Mr Tim Vaughan – **Pant Wilkin Stables, Aberthin, Cowbridge** – Renewal of temporary permission for log cabin and associated works for two years.

Ms Rachel Kingdon – **Bryn Awel, 1 Penylan Road, Aberthin** – Change from gravel mesh to block paviours due to slope from concrete area to road (amendment to 2013/01113/FUL).

Mrs Alex Price – **15 Greys Drive, Llantwit Major** – Ground floor and first floor extension.

Ms Rukhsana Jabar – **St Anne's Residential Home, 19 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Replacement windows throughout main house and erection of single storey garden room in rear garden.

Mr Tony Apollonio – **Glendale Hotel, 10 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – The rear annexe is to be converted into an apartment to accommodate the Hotel Manager. An additional floor will be inserted into the annexe building, accommodating sleeping area upstairs, with living, kitchen and dining spaces below. There will be no change to the main hotel building.

Mr David Griffiths – **St Athan Pharmacy, The Square, St Athan** – Change of use from private flat on first floor to treatment rooms for ground floor pharmacy.

Lloyds Banking Group – **Lloyds TSB Bank, 1 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Two new roller shutters to be installed within the branch to create an internal out-of-hours ATM lobby.

Mrs Hanna Campbell – **Middle Hill, Llancarfan** – 20m x 40m menage for private use only.

Mr Raymond Singh – **70 Windsor Road, Penarth** – Two storey extension to the rear of 70 Windsor Road; revision to planning application ref 2011/00873/FUL previously granted on November 2, 2011 and amended May 28, 2013.

Mr Barry Paine – **Ebenezer, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major** – Change of use from UR Church to dwelling house.

The Co-operative Group – **Spar Stores, 57 High Street, Cowbridge** – New plant and AC installations, louvre infill, new autodoor and redecorations.

Dr David and Alison Hughes – **3 Rectory Road, Penarth** – Demolition of existing garage; construction of carport with integral store.

Mr Mark Davies – **40 Salop Place, Penarth** – Rebuild of existing single storey rear extension with addition of first floor extension over new loft conversion complete with rear dormer.

Mrs Jane White – **Coed y Colwen Barn, Llancarfan** – Conversion of a redundant stone barn to a residential dwelling.

Mr Alex Fawcett – **Porthkerry Road Methodist Church, Porthkerry Road, Barry** – The addition of a new French window doorset in unit 4B of the church to create a new opening.

Mr Gwyn Davies – **Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol** – Temporary kitchen, toilets, table and chair storage, bar and cellar to be used with existing marquee.

Mr Yadgari Wahidullah – **Former site of Broad Street Motors, Broad Street, Barry** – Car wash facility (attended hand wash).

Mr Chris Williams – **10 Beach Road, Penarth** – Retention of change of use of existing outbuilding to an independent dwelling.

Mr Gwyn Thomas – **Duffryn Bach Farm, Clawddcoch, Cowbridge** – Proposed agricultural building with equine veterinary surgery with associated works. Amendment to previous planning permission, ref 2012/00194/FUL.

Spring Design – **Land adjacent to The Meynell, Trerhyngyll** – Proposed new dwelling.

Mrs Cindy Dwyer – **Holm View Cottage, Pen Y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – Proposed extension and refurbishment of existing bungalow.

Mr Darren Mepham – **Bramerton House, St Brides Major** – Replaced flue with chimney. Amendments to windows. Reduced size of glass in link section. Replaced approved stone and render with timber cladding.

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DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
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BARRY ROAD, BARRY
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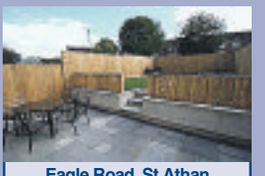
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Birthday Remembrance

ELLEN MILLS

Birthday on November 20, 2014

Happy Birthday

One year has passed, but you're never forgotten.

Thinking of you always.

Love from husband Malcolm, Anita, Paul, Kelly, Kacey and Sean. XXX

Birth Notices

LYLA ELIZABETH JOHN

Born on 15/11/2014

A beautiful daughter for Owen and Emily John

A lovely granddaughter for Phil & Teresa
A gorgeous niece for Ceri.
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Birthday Notices

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Family Notices

WILLIAMS
Malcolm

Peacefully passed away at home on 8th November. Malcolm of Colcot Road, Barry was the most beloved husband to his soul mate Evelyn and was the best father, grandfather and great grandfather anyone could wish for.

Your legacy will live on through us. We love you and miss you so much xxx

Funeral on Friday 21st November at Adams of Barry at 10.30am followed by burial at the cemetery and wake at West End Labour Club.

Family flowers only. Any donations will be given to Marie Curie to thank them for their support.

FELLOWS
Rosemary Joan

Peacefully, on November 12 at her home in Llantwit Major, after a short illness bravely fought, Rosemary, beloved wife of John, dearly loved Mum of Paul, Sharon and Sarah, dear mother-in-law of Jeanette, John and Mark, devoted Nannie of Sam.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday November 26, Service and cremation 3.00pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

HUGHES
Thomas Joseph

Passed away peacefully on 7th November, beloved husband of the late Councillor Lorna Hughes.

Private Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady and St Illtyd RC Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Tuesday 25th November at 1pm followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Fortified by rites of Holy Mother Church

No flowers by request please, donations if desired may be sent to SVP Llantwit Major c/o the church.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to The Vale Funeral Service, Barry 01446 407962.

GARSTANG
William John

Peacefully, on November 5 after a long illness, Bill of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of the late Mary.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday November 24, service and cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research UK c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

EVANS
Gaynor Mary *née Stevens*

Peacefully, on November 9 at Llandough Hospital, Gaynor of Rhoose, beloved wife of Neil, dearly loved mother of Amy and Gareth, loving daughter of Jack and Mair Stevens, much loved sister of Silvia and her family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday November 25, service 1.00pm at St Peters Church, Rhoose followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

HOPKINS
Dilys May *née* Jones

Sadly Dilys, of St Athan, aged 84 years, passed away on November 11 at Milsom House Care Home, St Athan. Beloved wife of the late Glyndwr, loved sister of Marian and Des, Aunty of Mark and Richard, sadly missed by all her family, reunited at last with Glyn.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday November 27, service 2.00pm at St Athan Church, followed by interment in St Athan Cemetery.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

Public Notices

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 12 MARCROES) GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

Ar 23 Hydref 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd o dan adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd.

Effaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd ailgyfeirio rhan o lwybr troed cyhoeddus fel y'i heglurwyd yn yr Atodlen ac a welir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 20 Tachwedd 2014 hyd 5 Ionawr 2015. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 20 Tachwedd 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam o'i herwydd yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am y tyb nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, ynteu na chydymffurfiwyd â'i gofynion neu'r rheoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, bydd hawl i'r unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraff 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl 20 Tachwedd 2014.

Dyddiedig 20 Tachwedd 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 12 MARCROSS) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

On the 23rd day of October 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under Section 119 of the Highways Act.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 20th November 2014 until 5th January 2015. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 20th November 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act, as amended, or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 20th November 2014 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 20th November 2014

Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 12 LLANDDUNWYD) GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

Ar 23 Hydref 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd o dan adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd.

Effaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd ailgyfeirio rhan o lwybr troed cyhoeddus fel y'i heglurwyd yn yr Atodlen ac a welir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 20 Tachwedd 2014 hyd 5 Ionawr 2015. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 20 Tachwedd 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam o'i herwydd yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am y tyb nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, ynteu na chydymffurfiwyd â'i gofynion neu'r rheoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, bydd hawl i'r unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraff 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl 20 Tachwedd 2014.

Dyddiedig 20 Tachwedd 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 12 WELSH ST DONATS) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

On the 23rd day of October 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under Section 119 of the Highways Act.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 20th November 2014 until 5th January 2015. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

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Dated this 20th November 2014

Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 17 LLANILID) GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

Ar 23 Hydref 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd o dan adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd.

Effaith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd ailgyfeirio rhan o lwybr troed cyhoeddus fel y'i heglurwyd yn yr Atodlen ac a welir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 20 Tachwedd 2014 hyd 5 Ionawr 2015. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 20 Tachwedd 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam o'i herwydd yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn, neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am y tyb nad yw o fewn pwerau'r Ddeddf uchod, ynteu na chydymffurfiwyd â'i gofynion neu'r rheoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, bydd hawl i'r unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraff 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl 20 Tachwedd 2014.

Dyddiedig 20 Tachwedd 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 17 LLANILID) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

On the 23rd day of October 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order made under Section 119 of the Highways Act.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 20th November 2014 until 5th January 2015. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 20th November 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act, as amended, or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 20th November 2014 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 20th November 2014

Director of Development Services, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

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Bad results for hockey teams

PENARTH Hockey Club faced another couple of tricky Davis Wood Hockey League encounters at the weekend, hampered by the absence of key players.

Penarth's First XI travelled across the Severn Bridge for a late afternoon fixture against mid-table rivals Bristol University 'B' knowing that a victory was essential to remain in touch with a top two threatening to pull away from the rest of the division.

Despite the journey to darkest Shirehampton, it was the visitors who started the more brightly, building through Chris Baker and Tom Haran in midfield and putting immediate pressure on the student defence.

The early effort was rewarded when a pacy approach was finished off by the lurking Chris McCarthy with less than 10 minutes on the clock, buoying a Penarth side that, despite the odd Bristol foray, had yet to defend its own goal.

The Vale side doubled its advantage midway through the half, when Baker produced a typical piece of individual hockey before firing past the hapless University goalkeeper, and the strike was made more welcome by the knowledge that the students were gradually coming more into the game, with increasing pressure being applied to the visitors' goal.

With right-half Dave Stevens and goalkeeper Mark Harris in fine form, the sides went into the interval without any further addition to the score, but Penarth knew that they would need to be on their mettle to prevent their hard-earned advantage being unravelled by their hosts.

Unfortunately, a change of strategy allowed the students to seize the upper-hand straight after the interval, and concerted pressure on the Penarth goal drew a couple of sharp saves from Harris.

The 'keeper could not keep the Bristol forwards at bay forever though and, eventually, the Penarth defences were breached by a penalty corner.

Rocked by the goal, Penarth were quickly brought back to parity as further University pressure led to a cross from the left that found a forward unmarked just a few feet off the goal-line. With only the recovering Harris to beat, a goal was inevitable, and drawing level only served to give the students fresh impetus.

Although Penarth enjoyed their share of attacking moments, they appeared less incisive than their hosts, and it was only a matter of time before the advantage finally tipped in Bristol's fashion.

Once again, Penarth were undone by a sustained run of penalty corners, with one eventually sneaking in at the right-hand post to make the score 3-2 in Bristol's favour.

Undeterred, and keen to secure the result that their endeavour deserved, Penarth continued to look for ways through the student defence, but it appeared as if fate may have turned against them. However, a brief injury break while Harris shook off the effects of a goalmouth collision appeared to give Penarth the chance to collect their thoughts, and renewed pressure eventually led to a hard-earned equaliser as Gareth Hurman popped up at the far post to tap home a ball fired in from the left flank.

With very little time remaining after the restart, Penarth were able to hold on and claim a merited 3-3 draw that secures them in fourth place in De Cymru & The Marches 1.

CAREW 5-2 PENARTH 'A'

With a depleted side, and midfield Paul Thomas deputising between the sticks in the absence of a recognised goalkeeper, Penarth's 2nd XI was always going to be up against on their trip to Swansea.

Despite another spirited display to match the one apparent in the previous week's reverse against co-leaders Cardiff & Met 'F, Penarth had no answer for the pressure applied by their hosts and eventually succumbed to a 5-2 defeat that drags them closer to the bottom four.

League games continue this weekend (Saturday, November 22), with the 1st XI hosting Wotton-under-Edge at Barry Sports Centre, while the seconds head across Cardiff to take on one of the myriad Whitchurch teams populating the De Cymru 2 division.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

CL

Cottrell ladies celebrate the end of the season

The Cottrell Park ladies enjoyed a pleasant evening at their end of season dinner.

Following a good meal the team captains reported on their teams' performance throughout the year. Sian Lovell reported that both the first and second teams held their own in their divisions. The first team remain in Division 2 and the second in Division 8 west.

She then told the story of their performances in clever verse. Helen Evans, the friendly captain, also reported in verse how much everyone had enjoyed playing in the teams; they both thanked all the ladies who had played in the teams, thanking them for their support.

Cathy Northam was presented with the second team cup for her tremendous support during the year.

CB

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When a local horse won the Welsh Grand National...

WALES' most prestigious horse race, The Coral Welsh Grand National, will be held at Chepstow Racecourse on December 27.

Little did I think when I saw Evan Williams's late father, Llancarfan farmer Rhys Williams, win the the adjacent hunts' race at the Tredegar Farmers' Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lower Machen, a delightful liitle racecourse which was being used for the first time back in 1964, on a horse called Norther that I was witnessing the following year's winner of Wales' showpiece race - and, as it happens, no other horse actually trained in Wales has been successful since.

In my book, The Welsh Grand National - From Deerstalker to Supreme Glory , I tell how this famous win came about.

One horse who made a big impression in Welsh point-to-points during the 1964 season was Glanville Jones' Norther who had been qualified with the Pentych Hunt. On two occasions Norther, who loved munching those mints with a hole in the middle, had beaten Snowdra Queen the mare bought out of Wales by Mrs Jackie Brutton and who was to win, among other races, the United Hunts Challenge Cup at Cheltenham.

Led over the last by Quintina, who was trying to land a notable double for trainer Fred Winter who had saddled Jay Trump to win the Aintree National, Norther stayed on gallantly to beat Fred Winter's charge by a length with Dark Venetian pipping Limonali for third place.

Norther was Terry Biddlecombe's 99th winner of the season; Norther, who was landing his fifth win of the season, was trained by Denzil Jenkins of Cowbridge in the Vale.

During the Second World War,Sqdn Ldr Jenkins ,DFC, had commanded a squadron of fighter pilots and had 192 flying operations to his credit. He declared: "He was well bred enough to win anything being by Precipitation and Terry was very confident today."

Mr Jones though was surprised as he thought the horse had been given too much weight. Norther was to have been ridden by Ken White but he had been claimed to ride Pallas Main which finished fifth.

Sadly, the Grand National third, Mr Jones, had a fatal fall at the water jump and his rider Chris Collins was not only badly shaken but had a nasty leg gash. Terry Biddlecombe's brother, Tony, also had good reason to remember this particular Chepstow meeting. He rode a hat-trick!

The following year, Norther finished seventh in the Aintree National and was second in the Scottish National. A fine jumper he was to return to point-to-pointing and had only one fall since 1966 when at the age of 15 he came down at the first fence at the South Pembrokeshire. He sadly somehow broke his jaw when grazing in his field and had to be put down.

Another Welsh point-to-pointer to win the Welsh Grand National was Gordon Llewellin's Dudley Cup winner Clover Bud which was successful in 1960 when ridden by David Nicholson.

As tough as old boots, Clover Bud initiated her stud career with two sets of dead twins, but was to prove most successful at stud in later years. Clover Bud died at the ripe old age of 27 and produced Captain Clover and champion point-to-pointer National Clover who was the dam of that good Cheltenham horse Go Ballistic. Another horse trained in the Vale to win the Welsh Grand National was Posy Lewis' Limonali, who was successful in 1959 and 1961 - more about this little horse later.

You can e-mail your news or views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

The Omen is a winner

***THE Omen*, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin, landed the British Legion Peace In Our Time Handicap Chase at Lingfield recently.**

Confidently ridden by 7lb claiming jockey Alan Johns, eight-year-old *The Omen*,who was made the 5-4 favourite, romped home 12 lengths ahead of *Gizzit*.

BRIAN LEE

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Cowbridge under-14s make Cup progress

COWBRIDGE under-14s successfully got through to the second round of the Blues Cup with a comfortable away victory at Gwernyfed.

The game's first try came from a text book turnover by the Cowbridge open-side flanker, Ben Jones. Ioan Williams quickly fed Reuben Williams on the crash ball, for R.Williams to crash over wide out on the right wing.

Straight from the resulting kick off, Cowbridge showed their intent with a superb backs move resulting in the play moving deep inside the Gwernyfed half. Gwernyfed stole the ball, but a brilliant turnover by Evan Lloyd gave Cowbridge the ball back.

Cowbridge showed great composure and produced 10 phases of play to set up a great team try for Iwan Price-Thomas on the far left wing. Evan Thomas converted.

Gwernyfed came back at Cowbridge and took a couple of scrums against the head, allowing their dangerous inside centre to get his hands on the ball making good yards into the Cowbridge half. Cowbridge's third try of the first half came from Andy Davies winning a scrum against the head.

With the surprise possession, Reuben Williams picked up and ran from his own 22 to just inside the Gwernyfed 22. Ioan Williams fed Evan Thomas, who with great soft hands offloaded to Ben Jones who put Jack Dixon in for his first try of the game on the right wing.

Gwernyfed were defending well and keeping the Cowbridge backs at bay. Gwernyfed managed to clear their lines after a concerted 10 minutes deep inside their own 22.

From this clearing kick, Evan Thomas took a great catch and set his right winger, Dixon, off on a great run. He was brought down with just 10 metres to the Gwernyfed line. With great support from the forwards the ball came back very quickly for I.Williams to feed Jack Little, the powerful second row, to go over for Cowbridge's fourth try of the half. E.Thomas converted to make it Gwernyfed 0, Cowbridge 24.

With the halftime whistle approaching Cowbridge scored their fifth and best try of the half. R.Williams made another great run down the blind side, handing off four Gwernyfed defenders.

By the time R.Williams had been brought down nearly half of the Gwernyfed defenders had been taken out of the game. With some simple passing along the backs Iwan Price-Thomas, the Cowbridge full back entered the line to score his second try of the game. The halftime score was Gwernyfed 0, Cowbridge 29.

The second half started as the first had finished with Cowbridge attacking deep inside the Gwernyfed 22. Gwernyfed were defending hard at a ruck five metres out from their line, when the ball squirted out and Evan Thomas was the first to react.

Thomas fly hacked the ball over the try line and Iestyn Fenn pounced on the ball to score the first try of the second half. Cowbridge made a number of substitutions, one of which was a welcome return for Harry Ridge.

Playing full back Ridge gathered a clearing kick and ran hard into the Gwernyfed defence. As the Gwernyfed defence gathered around Ridge he managed to get a pass away to Dixon, who scampered over for his second try of the game; E.Thomas converted.

With the game entering the final stages, Harry Bluck the powerful Cowbridge prop, went on a barnstorming individual run. With virtually the whole of the Gwernyfed pack on his back, Bluc continued to pump his legs and was brought down within inches of the line.

From the resulting quick ball, Barny Langdon-Cryer went over for his first try of the game. To be fair to Gwernyfed they did not let their heads drop at any stage and secured themselves a consolation try.

From a scrum deep inside their own 22, Gwernyfed bravely ran the ball. The Gwernyfed inside centre took advantage of a huge gap in the Cowbridge midfield and showed great pace to score a length of the field try.

The game's final try came following another run by R.Williams, taking four Gwernyfed defenders to bring him down. I.Williams made a blind side run and put in a great scoring pass to Dan Roberts, the substitute left winger, to make the final score Gwernyfed 7, Cowbridge 53.

Well done boys on a great performance and your progression to the second round of the Blues Cup where the team will play away at Cymry Caerdydd RFC.

GJ

VALE'S COACHES OF THE FUTURE CHOSEN

ABOVE: Coun Gwyn John pictured with Ieuan, Tom and Liam, and the Vale Council's 'Coaches of the Future'.

FIFTEEN sixth form pupils across the Vale have recently been selected to be part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's 'Coaches of the Future' scheme.

The initiative was launched at the Civic Offices in Barry with a special reception that included a visit from two British swimmers, Ieuan Lloyd and Tom Haffield, who spoke to the group about the positive impact that their swimming coaches have made so far in their careers.

Ieuan and Tom were also joined at the launch by Liam Tanner, a sixth form pupil from Barry Comprehensive School who is one of the Vale of Glamorgan's four Gold Sports Ambassadors.

Vale of Glamorgan Council's cabinet member for leisure, Coun Gwyn John, said: "This is an extremely exciting initiative which will provide an invaluable insight into sports coaching. Ieuan, Tom and Liam are three excellent examples of young people who inspire people through sport and it was fascinating to hear from Ieuan and Tom about how various coaches have helped them in different ways due to their differing styles and attributes."

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VALE MAYOR HOLDS RECEPTION FOR LOCAL REFEREES' SOCIETY

DURING the term of his office, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, is patron to the Vale of Glamorgan Referees' Society.

Coun Howard Hamilton hosted a reception for members of the society and was entertained with their stories on the life of a referee.

He said: "It was an interesting evening and I enjoyed hearing about the decisions the referees have to make and situations they have to manage.

"I was impressed with their professionalism and their commitment to encourage younger members of their society."

The Vale of Glamorgan Referees' Society, which is sponsored by RIM Motors, meets on the second Monday of each month between August and May at Cadoxton Conservative Club, Barry.

For further information, contact the secretary Terry Allday on: vogrs@hotmail.co.uk.

Iwan grapples with success!

RHOOSE resident Iwan Baker was rewarded for switching to the lower 69kg class at the recent Apsull International Wrestling Open with a silver medal.

Arriving at the weigh-in at 69.65kg half an hour of jogging and skipping was required before he tipped the scales at the exact weight.

Iwan, a 16 year old pupil at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, took the scalp of the British junior bronze medallist on the way to the final with the highlight of his day being a first round throw and pin combination.

Competing in the under-18 category final against a vastly more experienced opponent proved a step too far but silver in this international competition is a fine achievement and Iwan will go into his next competition in Malta as part of the Welsh team with great confidence.

RB

Llansannor Primary school pupils win Cardiff pool gala

THREE hundred young swimmers from seven primary schools in south Wales took part in a special gala hosted by Cardiff International Pool.

Split into 25 teams, the year-5 and 6 pupils from the Vale and Cardiff enjoyed a series of fun relays ranging from front crawl and backstroke to woggle and body board races.

"The day was a huge success. The children had a lot of fun and we hope it's encouraged them to continue to swim and develop their ability," said Darren Phillips, centre manager of Cardiff International Pool, which is operated by Parkwood Leisure on behalf of Cardiff City Council.

Every participant went home with a swim goody bag while the winning team, Llansannor Primary School, won a trophy and free return trip to the leisure pool for the whole school.

Support for the event was provided by Cardiff City Council, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Swim Wales, and construction company Kier.

Ladies are up for the Cup!

DINAS ladies entertained Goytre from Port Talbot at Bryn Y Don on Sunday in an enthralling cup match.

The home side started brightly with the ladies getting the ball down and playing their passing game. Goytre were a threat early on with their pacey wide players but the villagers were very alert to the dangers.

The home side opened the scoring when Laura Lewis finished off a great move; Rachel Harold the Dinas keeper rolled the ball out to Emma Thompson who carried the ball 30 yards to release wing back Brooke Howells, who put Lewis clear. Dinas then moved up the gears and moments later Leanne Pattemore stroked the ball home from 15 yards.

The home side looked worthy of their lead as they moved the ball around the pitch and showed the importance of training.

As halftime approached Dinas were guilty of over playing the ball in dangerous areas and the Goytre midfielder pulled a goal back with a piledriver, giving Harold little chance.

The instructions at the break were very simple - keep playing the right way, get on the ball, use minimal touches and earn the right to play.

The second half saw the villagers blow the visitors away in the opening 15 minutes as two well worked goals from Emily Gillard and Lewis put the game to bed.

The defence of Thompson, Ellison, and Beddoe had a solid match and always looked to start attacks off time and time again. Gillard seems to have found her position, allowing Saunders and Pattemore a platform to play off.

The midfield three looked very composed on the ball, keeping possession very well for long periods and all looking to get on the scoresheet.

Pushing Tracey White further up the pitch was vital as her strength and presence was a major part in getting the ball to stick through the attacks.

The lively Lewis was a pain for the visiting defenders, while Swedish signing Ellen Samelius had a very impressive debut at left wing back as her and right wing back Brooke Howells destroyed the opposition full backs.

Substitutes Jodi Bowles, Rhianne Booth and Danielle Speight were introduced in the second half and all continued the team's fine football.

Well done ladies and a big thank to Radisson Blu for sponsoring the ladies; final score 4-1 to Dinas Powys.

LS

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10 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-Dr In white 71,000 miles with privacy glass, alloys, cd **£4,995**

10 TOYOTA Aygo "Blue" 1.0 VVTi 5-Dr In electric blue, 42,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,995**

09 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Diesel 'S' 5-Dr In silver, 63,000 miles, low road tax **£4,995**

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55 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 Colour Correction 3-Dr In black, 64,000 miles, low insurance **£3,495**

08 VAUXHALL Vectra 2.8 V6 Elite Auto. Silver, black leather, 73,000 miles, top Vauxhall at **£3,295**

58 FORD Ka Style. In met blue, 27,000 miles with a/c, cd, e/w **£2,995**

57 FORD KA Luxury In silver with black leather, 37,000 miles, a/c alloys **£2,795**

07 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate. In black, 33,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£2,695**

56 MITSUBISHI Colt 1.1 CZi 5-Dr. In black, 54,000 miles a/c etc **£2,995**

55 CITROEN Picasso 2.0 HDi Desire In silver, 68,000 miles, family diesel hatch **£2,995**

66 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Convertable In silver, 84,000 miles **£2,795**

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56 RENAULT Laguna 2.0 Expression Estate In black, 76,000 miles **£2,495**

05 FORD Focus 1.6 Flight 5-Dr. In blue, 84,000 miles **£2,495**

05 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life Twin Port 3-Dr In silver, 48,000 miles, low insurance **£2,495**

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Club celebrates president Tom's 90th birthday!

IT was a momentous evening at Cowbridge RFC last Friday as the great, the good and many others, gathered to celebrate president Tom Mainwaring's forthcoming 90th birthday.

The club was packed with players and members past and present, indicating Tom's popularity and influence over the years.

Once all had been called to order, club stalwart Richard Killick gave a extremely well researched resume of Tom's past. Born in Taibach, Tom had an illustrious rugby career playing for Maesteg including a Welsh trial playing with the Probables in 1947, Aberavon, London Welsh and three games for Cowbridge.

Moving to London in 1950, Tom returned to south Wales in 1960 and moved to Cowbridge in 1964, starting a long association with the club that continues to this day. Over the years he has been coach, committee member, long- serving treasurer, and, to this day, president.

Tom will also famously be remembered by many as one of the founders of the mini-rugby section, all the while supported by his wonderful wife Nora.

Once Richard had finished Tom took to the floor with some great reminiscences that entertained everyone. Chairman John Griffiths thanked Tom and invited all to join in the buffet.

A great night was had and it was a pleasure for all to be able to be with Tom on his special occasion. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this a special night.

A special mention should go to Richard Killick who, along with Brian Owen, spent hours with Tom putting together the presentation of Tom's life - well done all.

There are no games for the club this weekend as the autumn internationals continue with the All Blacks this Saturday; those not able to go to the game are welcome to watch the spectacle at the club.

RV/RK

SISTERS ON THE RUN!

LLANTWIT MAJOR Comprehensive Sisters Erin (year 13) and Alisha (year 9) Hayes have both been selected to run for south Wales in the Welsh Regional cross country championships to be held in Builth Wells on Saturday, December 14; both girls run locally for Bridgend AC.

CH

The Cowbridge darts round-up

ON Tuesday November 11, a full round of league matches were played.

The Llanharry Workings Men Club strengthened their lead at the top of the table with a 7-2 win at the Farmers Arms. The race for second spot is now very close with the Edmondes B closing the gap to the Highwayman Inn by defeating the Old Post ladies 8-1 while the Highwayman Inn only won 6-3 against the Edmondes C.

The other match, played at the Hare and Hounds, was very close, going down to the very last throw, with an out by Trevor Morgan sealing the victory for the Edmondes A by a score of 5-4. It was night of excellent darts with Rhys Jurys finishing a leg in 11 darts and Sally McCaver recording a 92 three-dart average.

Present league standings after seven matches, are: Llanharry (50 points), Highwayman Inn and Edmondes B (37), Edmondes A (34), Hare and Hounds (30), Edmondes C (25), Farmer's Arms (22) and Old Post Ladies (15).

Next week, Tuesday, November 25, the Hare and Hounds will host the semi-finals and the final of the Mixed Doubles.

The semi-final line-up is Trevor Morgan and Sue Morgan (Edmondes A) versus Mark Dowling and Daisey Repke (Edmondes C) and Pam Adams and Tony Fox (Farmers Arms) versus Steve Simmonite and Ann Daily (Edmondes A). Matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

Note all teams can register new players until the New Year so if you wish to play darts this season get in touch.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Llantwit Major under-10s pushed

LAST Sunday Llantwit under-10s welcomed Porthcawl to play. The match was one of the toughest, most nail-biting matches Llantwit have been involved in so far this season!

Porthcawl were strong and fast. They were on the ball quickly from the start, making Llantwit's defence really wake up. It took some hard work from all the team to open up the field enough for Corey to break through to score his first try of the match. Porthcawl were quick to respond with some great tackles and ran over to score their first try.

The play was scrappy, with Porthcawl winning most of the ball at the breakdown, but it was only through the sheer determination of Llantwit's defence that Porthcawl didn't cross the try line a few more times.

After a nailbiting few minutes of play, the ball was passed out to Sam A who ran in a fantastic try, followed by a quick turn over ball and Sam A's second try of the match.

Porthcawl were chasing everything, and up on play quickly, and through their great passing they pushed over the line to score again.

At the restart, Sam A took a quick pass out, and with another trademark run down the outside, he scored his third try. Porthcawl were attacking hard and it took some fantastic tackles from Corey, Josh and Sam H to stop them.

Llantwit were starting to get their game together, opening up the field enough for Corey to dive over the line to score two hard earned tries.

The last 10 minutes of play were nerve wracking to say the least! Porthcawl were hitting hard, and with some great team play they pushed over the line twice.

Llantwit responded by getting the ball out to Sam A on the wing again and he was able to run in another fantastic try. This was followed by a fantastic effort from Josh to get over the line.

It was Porthcawl who had the last say of the match with two well-worked tries, bringing the final score to 8-6 to Llantwit. Thanks to Porthcawl for the best match we've had so far!

Try scorers: Corey (3) Sam A (4) and Josh (1). Man of the match: Corey - for an awesome effort, and scoring three fantastic tries.

Squad: Corey Lougher, Iwan Thomas, Aneurin Price, Cristian Parry, Tom Roberts, Sam Alexander, Logan Pike, Dylan Wright, Jamie Jenkins, Rhys Davies, Olly Williams, Sam Harry, Josh Wakeham, Robert Jones, Jack Evans, Gabriel Lilford and Noah Ridgeway.

SR

Llantwit under-7s beaten by Porthcawl

LLANTWIT Major RFC under-7s welcomed Porthcawl on Sunday in the unfamiliar surroundings of the Comprehensive School.

With both teams having great numbers it was decided to play two games at once to ensure they all had maximum game time.

Both teams started exceptionally well, running in the tries and holding Porthcawl out with great tagging. The first games ended with a 6-4 win and a 8-11 loss. With their confidence up the teams entered the second games hoping to rack up the tries.

In another closely contested game on the top pitch the team narrowly lost 6-7 at the final whistle. The team on the bottom pitch didn't fare so well with quite a few missed tags allowing Porthcawl to run in tries at will, ending 5-10. Overall, Llantwit lost 25-32.

Top try scorer on the day was Thomas Collins with an outstanding six tries! Other scores came from Oliver Ingram (1), Bleddyn Mitchem (1), Jos Bourner (3), Tomos Davies (3), Aaron Moce (1), Dylan Godsell (3), Joel Harris (2), Kyle Pagano (3) and Bleddyn Daw (2).

The Llantwit coaches awarded the player of the match certificates to the two captains on the day, Evan Boult and Maverick Jennings. Neither managed to get on the score sheet but led by example both with ball in hand and their defensive tagging - well done!

This week the team make the short journey to local rivals Barry.

Team: Aaron Moce, Dylan Godsell, Joel Harris, Kyle Pagano, Bleddyn Daw, Ifan Lovejoy, Lloyd Morgan, Evan Boult, Oliver Ingram, Bleddyn Mitchem, Thomas Collins, Jos Bourner, Tomos Davies, Norah Griffiths, Maverick Jennings and Theo Elsenburg.

IG

Petanque competition

FOLLOWING the success of the charity petanque competition in September when £150 was raised to be divided between College Fields Nursing Home and Marie Curie, it has been decided to hold another event on Sunday, November 23, with registration at 1.30pm for a 2pm start.

Play will take place until late afternoon at the Llancarfan piste (near the foot of school hill) until light curtails proceedings! Vehicle parking is available to the rear of The Fox and Hounds P.H. with a footway skirting the village church to meet up with the road near the foot of school hill.

A draw of players will be made into teams of three - no-one turned away! Four teams competing at the same time may be accommodated.

The format will depend on the number of players that emerge as well as weather considerations. Entry fee will £2 per player (includes a raffle strip). The raffle money will go towards Llancarfan Society funds with the remaining proceeds towards petanque prizes.

Drinks will be available by donation or attendees are welcome to bring their own food and/or drink.

If you haven't played before and are interested in discovering the world of petanque, we will give a run-down of the basic rules plus some tips on how to play the game. The handful of regulars are still at the beginner to minimal experience level and welcome newcomers to join in the fun.

If you are interested please contact Phil Watts (01446 411249) or Russ Watts (07779 157407 or russ.watts@btopenworld.com) for further information or to register in advance.

RW

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for the last two weeks:

November 10 (Children in Need Sims) - 1st Tony Howarth & Kevin Maddox 70.63%, 2nd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 62.92%, 3rd Tony Ratcliff & Trish Tracy 62.29%.

November 17 - 1st Julia Evans & Graham Norris 64.88%, 2nd Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 62.20%, 3rd John Henson & Geoff Tinkler 58.93%.

LE

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Impressive draw in Belgium may be the catalyst for Euro qualification

WHEN an under-strength Wales side picked up a point in the final game of the 2014 World Cup qualifiers in October last year, against a Belgium side already heading for Brazil, it was an impressive result, albeit in a game that was a dead rubber, with the Belgians on their way to the World Cup and Wales heading for the ignominy of finishing second from bottom in the group.

Fast forward 13 months, and the two teams met again - but this time in vastly different circumstances. The Belgians, having taken four points from their opening two games, were looking for a victory that would push them further up Group B in the battle to qualify for Euro 2016, while Wales were looking to consolidate, two wins and a draw from their opening three games seeing them top the pile.

Over the ensuing 90 minutes, Wales battled hard, the first half dominance of the Belgians giving way to a slightly more even second half with Belgium having more control of the game.

When the final whistle went, the scoreline was different from last time, 0–0 rather than 1–1, but the result the same, a draw that, at least for a few hours, kept the Welsh top of Group B before Israel's 3-0 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

So what to read into this result for a Welsh team, dare I say it, starting to live up to their potential? Well it was their most impressive performance yet in the group, one that showed that they could contain a Belgium side ranked fourth in the world while looking capable of grabbing something on the break, the pace of Gareth Bale always a threat against a defence that, *sans* Vincent Kompany, didn't look the most secure.

It was also another vindication of Chris Coleman who, having taken his time to win over hearts and minds, has started to show some tactical nous and belief in his squad to get results.

The key to any qualification dream is to win your home games, and having dropped two points against the aforementioned Bosnians (a result looking more and more like a missed opportunity), you feel Wales can't afford any more slip-ups at home, while avoiding defeat on their travels.

Do that and there is every chance that Wales will break their major tournament hoodoo – then we can maybe start dreaming of the holy grail that is the World Cup in Russia 2018...

GARETH JAMIESON

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After the poor showing against Fiji, it's back to the tried and trusted...

'All Blacks come fully loaded' Gatland warns his Welsh troops

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

ONCE UPON A TIME, Fijians were rather patronisingly applauded by rugby's global elite for a care-free, uninhibited approach that made the Islanders formidable Sevens exponents, but which, it was said, could never transfer to the more serious demands of the 15-man game.

Now all that is slowly changing in a professional era that sees more and more South Sea Islanders join the ranks of top class clubs around the world -– as was shown in the Fijian line-up against Wales at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday – with illustrious names like Stade Francais, Wellington, Crusaders, Leicester Tigers and Ospreys, liberally scattered through the squad listed in the match day programme.

That fact alone should have been warning enough to the Welsh squad that they were not to be taken lightly.

Even so, despite sweeping changes to the team that narrowly lost (28-33) to Australia the week before, a decisive home result was to be expected in a must-win game against next year's Rugby World Cup opponents, in order to maintain vital momentum for the two much bigger autumn tests to follow.

Yes, there had been some close outcomes in the previous nine clashes (seven of which Wales had won) and no-one will ever forget that Fiji had defeated Wales 38-34 in the 2007 World Cup – but the Welsh camp expected to comfortably see off the hastily-assembled Islanders' spirited but limited challenge, and clear the decks for the real action against world champions New Zealand.

Instead, the script went badly wrong, derailing the impetus gained from the previous week's combative performance against the Wallabies and setting off alarm bells – as an inept display against a team reduced to 14 men saw Wales counting themselves extremely lucky to squeak home by a four-point margin (17-13) at the end.

It began with a Welsh fumble from the kick-off, which was fortunately rescued and then George North raised the hopes of 61,000-plus supporters by opening the scoring with a very well-executed try, which recalled outside half Rhys Priestland was unable to convert.

Fellow wing Alex Cuthbert followed suit with a second unconverted try in the corner, but Fiji's giant centre Nemani Nadolo (who was to accumulate all of his side's points), reduced the deficit to four with two penalties in quick succession, and failed with a third attempt, as all too familiar basic Welsh errors mounted, bringing groans around the ground.

Then, with half time approaching, the Welsh eight redoubled their efforts and were rewarded with a penalty try. Priestland slotted over the simple conversion, to make the score 17-6 at the interval, after battling Fiji were awarded yet another penalty, which fortunately for Wales, was unsuccessful.

If the drab first half spectacle was disappointing, the second half reached an even lower ebb, so much so that many among the massed ranks of spectators lost interest and decided to entertain themselves, with a series of Mexican waves cascading around the stadium.

Meanwhile, Welsh frustration with Fijian spoiling tactics was mollified when a second yellow card reduced the visitors to 14 men for the remaining half hour.

However, this did little to improve Welsh fortunes, not helped by some bizarre decisions by the match officials, when Wales had two seemingly legitimate tries disallowed – one set up by the deserved man-of-the-match, Liam Williams.

Welsh woes were worsened when once again, just as in the match against Australia, and with just minutes left on the clock, a carelessly misjudged pass in attack was intercepted. This time, it was the bulky Nemani Nadolo who was gifted an unchallenged opportunity to race almost the length of the field for a try which he converted himself, to make it 17-13.

Fiji were still threatening as the final whistle sounded and Priestland thankfully brought what had become a sorry saga to an end by kicking the ball out of play.

The grim expressions on the faces of the Welsh coaches at the post-match press conference told it all, with head coach Warren Gatland saying tersely: "*I am embarrassed by the display. We let the supporters down. It was a game we should have won…The strongest teams put these sides away…*"

He pointed to the high number of turnovers conceded and admitted to being "*frustrated*" by some of the officials' decisions which didn't help the flow of a game that had turned into a "*dogfight*".

There is no doubt that Wales will need to step up more than a couple of gears if they are to have any hope at all of matching, let alone defeating, the all-conquering All Blacks – who rested most of their first choice players in the 24-16 win over Scotland at Edinburgh, in readiness for Cardiff.

As Gatland warned: "*They will be "coming to the Millennium Stadium fully loaded on Saturday.*"

Not surprising then, after last week's dire display, that he has largely reverted to a tried and trusted line-up for this ultimate autumn challenge – even risking newly-recovered centre Jonathan Davies and Leigh Halfpenny (who replaces the unlucky Liam Williams at full back).

It's good to see the hugely-gifted, but sadly under-used James Hook, back on the replacements bench and this time he will be hoping he actually gets a proper chance to play!

WALES TEAM v NEW ZEALAND

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon), Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), George North (Northampton Saints), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys); Paul James (Bath), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (unattached), Sam Warburton (Blues, capt), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).

Replacements:
Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Nicky Smith (Ospreys), Rhodri Jones (Scarlets), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), James Hook (Gloucester), Liam Williams (Scarlets).